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# BMJ Open

## Modifiable Risk Factors Related to Burnout levels in the Medical Workplace in Taiwan

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Keywords:	Work-related burnout, Combined lifestyle factors, Weekend catch-up sleep

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3 **1 Modifiable Risk Factors Related to Burnout levels in the Medical Workplace in Taiwan**  
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## 1 ABSTRACT

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1 **ABSTRACT**

2 **Objectives:** To detect the combined lifestyle factors effects concerning work-related burnout(WB)

3 and analyze the burnout risk according to the number of weekend catch-up sleep hours in the medical

4 workplace.

5 **Design:** Cross-sectional study.

6 **Setting:** Hospital-based survey in Taiwan.

7 **Participants:** In total, 2746 participants completed the questionnaire on the Overload Health Control

8 System of the hospital from the first day of January 2016 through the end of December 2016, with a

9 response rate of 70.5% (2746/3894). These voluntary participants included 358 physicians, 1406

10 nurses, physician assistants, 570 nurses, 367 medical technicians and 615 administrative staffs.

11 **Primary and secondary outcome measures:** All factors with significant associations to WB were

12 entered into multinomial logistic regression after adjustment by other factors. The dose-response

13 relationship of combined lifestyle factors and catch-up sleep hours associated with WB were

14 explored by logistic regression mode, respectively.

15 **Results:** After adjustments, five unhealthy factors (Abnormal meal times, Often eating out, Lack of

16 sleep, No exercise, Work hours>40hours) were independently associated with WB. As the number of

17 risk factors increased, so did the proportion of medium and high levels in WB. A lack of sleep was

18 found to be the most significant factor related to WB (Adjusted OR=5.13, 95% CI 3.94 to 6.69, for

19 high level as compared to low level). For those with workday sleep hours less than seven, weekend

20 catch-up sleep was found to be related to a reduction in burnout risk.

21 **Conclusions:** This study demonstrated the cumulative effects of combined unhealthy lifestyle factors

22 on WB in the medical workplace. Weekend catch-up sleep may correlated to a lower burnout risk for

23 those with a short workday sleep duration (less than 7). Clinicians should pay attention to people

24 with combined unhealthy lifestyle factors, especially for short sleep duration without weekend

25 catch-up sleep in the future.

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3 1 **Keywords:** Work-related burnout; Combined lifestyle factors; Weekend catch-up sleep.  
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## 8 **Article Summary**

### 9 **Strengths and limitations of this study:**

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12 - This is the first study to assess the cumulative effect of combined unhealthy lifestyle factors on  
13 work-related burnout(WB) and the associations between weekend catch-up sleep and WB in the  
14 medical workplace.  
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18 - The modifiable risk factors included in our study were selected from the questionnaire based upon  
19 an legally authorized and official program, therefore culturally representative to local medical  
20 workplace .  
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26 - The study design is cross-sectional, therefore a causal relationship could not be established.  
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29 - The associations between weekend catch-up sleep and work-related burnout can only be applied to  
30 staff experiencing a lack of sleep, because there is no information regarding the amount of sleep  
31 hours for whom with enough sleep.  
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35 - Information of this study is mainly based on self-report measures, and the influence of information  
36 bias still remain.  
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## 40 2 41 42 3 **INTRODUCTION**

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44 4 In recent years, the issue of burnout in medical profession employees has received increasing  
45 attention, due to its physical, psychological, and occupational consequences.<sup>1</sup> Previous research has  
46 demonstrated that burnout is an important factor when assessing mental health in workplace.<sup>2</sup>  
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49 6 Physician burnout represents a public health crisis by having a negative impact on individual  
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54 8 physicians, their patient's care and the healthcare system.<sup>3</sup>

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56 9 Many previous studies have pointed out that some non-modifiable factors, such as gender, age,  
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59 10 marriage status, seniority, job category, and shift work type, were related to burnout.<sup>2,4</sup> We believed  
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3 1 that the modifiable factors is more important than the non-modifiable factors, because the former can  
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5 2 be improved through on-site health services. Although, few studies explored the modifiable factors  
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7 3 related to workplace burnout, such as a higher consumption of fast food, infrequent exercise, long  
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9 4 working hours, and fewer sleep hours,<sup>5-7</sup> there has been no research to identify the factors most  
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11 5 relevant to burnout, nor the cumulative effects of the various factors involved.

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14 6 Several studies have shown that combined healthy lifestyle factors has a greater health impact than  
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16 7 any single lifestyle factor on some health outcomes (include mortality in cancer patient,  
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18 8 disability-free survival, and depression).<sup>8-11</sup> Individual lifestyle behaviors have been associated with  
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20 9 elevated burnout level, but there was no studies focusing on the association between combined  
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22 10 lifestyle behaviors and work-related burnout in medical workplace.

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25 11 Weekend catch-up sleep is one way to cope with insufficient sleep during workdays by increasing  
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27 12 the sleep duration during weekend.<sup>12</sup> Previous studies had demonstrated the association between  
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29 13 weekend catch-up sleep and some health outcome (include obesity, hypertension, and health-related  
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31 14 quality of life).<sup>12-14</sup> However, no research analyzed the association between weekend catch-up sleep  
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33 15 and work-related burnout for medical staff.

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36 16 Thus, the object of the present study are : (1) to detect the most relevant modifiable factors, and  
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38 17 the combined lifestyle factors concerning work-related burnout in the medical workplace and (2) to  
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40 18 analyze the work-related burnout risk according to the number of weekend catch-up sleep hours  
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42 19 under different workdays sleep hours.

## 43 44 45 46 47 20 48 49 21 **METHODS**

### 50 51 22 **Participants and study design**

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53 23 This study was approved by the Institutional Review Board I & II, Taichung Veterans General  
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55 24 Hospital (Case no. CE18353A). The study design is cross-sectional. After reading the informed  
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57 25 consent, all the voluntary participants completed an electronic questionnaire on the Overload Health  
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3 1 Control System of the Taichung Veterans General Hospital from the first day of January 2016  
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5 2 through the end of December 2016. In total, 2746 participants completed the questionnaire, with a  
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7 response rate of 70.5% (2746/3894). The type of data is delinked anonymous information. There are  
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9 no health impact on individuals and no risk of personal data leakage.  
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## 15 6 **Factors in the questionnaire**

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17 7 In Taiwan, the publication "Guideline for Preventing Diseases Caused by Exceptional Workload"  
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19 8 was released by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration of the Ministry of Labor in 2014.  
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21 According to the guideline, laborers must fill out the overwork assessment questionnaire, which  
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23 contains their sociodemographic information (gender, age, and marital status), working conditions  
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25 (current profession, length of employment, and self-reporting work type), lifestyle factors  
26  
27 (smoking/alcohol/betel nut use status, sleep condition, meal times, frequency of eating out, exercise  
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29 habits, and self-reporting working hours per week). These factors were set by an expert consensus of  
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31 the Occupational Safety and Health Administration of the Ministry of Labor of Taiwan. When  
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33 participants chose "lack of sleep" or "regular physical exercise", they needed to fill in the number of  
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35 sleep hours on workdays and free days, as well as their total weekly exercise time. Weekend  
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37 catch-up sleep hours were calculated according to the following formula: Weekend sleep hours  
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39 minus the workdays sleep hours.<sup>15</sup> Workday sleep duration was categorized into 3 groups: <6 hours,  
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41  $\geq 6$  to <7 hours,  $\geq 7$  hours. Weekend sleep duration was categorized into 3 groups:  $\leq 0$  hours, >0 to  
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43  $\leq 2$  hours, >2 hours.  
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## 52 22 **Burnout**

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54 23 The newly developed Copenhagen Burnout Inventory (CBI) by Kristensen et al.<sup>16</sup> is a more  
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56 24 straightforward measurement of burnout in the population of medical professionals, as compared to  
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58 the standard Maslach Burnout Inventory (MBI).<sup>17</sup> The CBI assesses burnout status through the use of  
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3 1 three criteria: personal burnout, work-related burnout, and client-related burnout. Additionally, a  
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5 2 Chinese version of the Copenhagen Burnout Inventory (C-CBI) was constructed based upon the CBI,  
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8 3 which displayed good validity and reliability.<sup>18 19</sup> In this study, we adopted ‘Work-related Burnout  
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10 4 (WB)’ subscales of the C-CBI to assess burnout risk in the workplace. The C-CBI ‘work-related  
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12 5 burnout’ subscales consist of 7 items.<sup>18</sup> All items used a Likert-type, five-response category scale.  
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14 6 The responses were rescaled to a 0–100 metric. According to the previous study,<sup>18</sup> the C-CBI WB  
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16 7 had a Cronbach’s  $\alpha$  coefficient of 0.87. For work-related burnout scores, a burnout score  $\geq 45$  and  
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18 8  $>60$  indicates medium and high burnout, respectively, in the analysis.  
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## 22 9 **Statistical analysis**

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24 10 Data from the C-CBI WB subscales were analyzed for internal consistency using Cronbach's  $\alpha$ .  
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26 11 The WB score was categorized into three levels: Low, Medium, and High. Demographic information,  
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28 12 working conditions, and lifestyle factors were expressed by the category variable and were recorded  
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30 13 as numbers (%). Differences in the distribution of categorical variables for WB level were tested  
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32 14 using the  $\chi^2$  test. All factors with significant associations to WB were entered into multinomial  
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34 15 logistic regression after adjustment by other factors to calculate Odds Ratios (ORs) (95% CIs). All  
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36 16 calculations were performed using the software SPSS V.23, with the level of significance set at  
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38 17  $p < 0.05$ . We used the STROBE cross sectional checklist when writing our report.<sup>20</sup>  
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## 43 18 **RESULTS**

### 44 19 **Characteristics of the participants**

45 20 The demographic information, working conditions, and lifestyle factors of the participants are  
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47 21 summarized in Table 1. Most participants were female (78.55%), 48.83% were married while  
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49 22 48.73% were single. More than half of the participants were nurses (51.20%) and on day shift  
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51 23 (64.64%). Nearly half of the participants were aged between 21 and 34 years (47.34%), and had  
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53 24 worked for less than 5 years (34.38%). Most participants denied any smoking/alcohol/betel nut use  
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55 25 (98.40%/97.45%/95.41%) and had normal BMI (68.79%). Analysis of employee lifestyles revealed  
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- 1 abnormal meal times (55.13%), high eating out rates (93.26% for at least one meal per day), lack of  
 2 sleep (59.07%), non-regular physical exercise (60.74%), and working overtime (>40 hours)(58.56%).

**Table 1. Characteristics of participants (N=2746)**

Factors	N	%	Factors	N	%
<b>Profession</b>			<b>Mealtime</b>		
Doctor (V.S.)	167	(6.08%)	Normal	1232	(44.87%)
Doctor (R)	191	(6.96%)	Abnormal	1514	(55.13%)
Nurse	1406	(51.20%)	<b>Eat out</b>		
Medical technician	367	(13.36%)	0 meal	185	(6.74%)
Administrative staff (Head)	16	(0.58%)	1 meal	663	(24.14%)
Administrative staff (Other)	599	(21.81%)	2 meals	832	(30.30%)
<b>Age (years)</b>			3 meals	1066	(38.82%)
21-34	1300	(47.34%)	<b>Lack of sleep</b>		
35-44	603	(21.96%)	No	1124	(40.93%)
45-54	625	(22.76%)	Yes	1622	(59.07%)
55-66	218	(7.94%)	<b>Workday sleep hours &lt;6 hrs</b>		
<b>Gender</b>			Catch-up sleep hours $\leq 0$ hrs	66	(2.40%)
Male	589	(21.45%)	Catch-up sleep hours >0 and $\leq 2$ hrs	243	(8.85%)
Female	2157	(78.55%)	Catch-up sleep hours >2 hrs	303	(11.03%)
<b>Length of service (years)</b>			<b>Workday sleep hours <math>\geq 6</math> and &lt;7 hrs</b>		
< 5 years	944	(34.38%)	Catch-up sleep hours $\leq 0$ hrs	115	(4.19%)
5-14 years	685	(24.95%)	Catch-up sleep hours >0 and $\leq 2$ hrs	452	(16.46%)
15-24 years	523	(19.05%)	Catch-up sleep hours >2 hrs	211	(7.68%)
>24 years	443	(16.13%)	<b>Workday sleep hours <math>\geq 7</math> hrs</b>		
Missing	151	(5.50%)	Catch-up sleep hours $\leq 0$ hrs	62	(2.26%)
<b>Marital status</b>			Catch-up sleep hours >0 and $\leq 2$ hrs	102	(3.71%)
Single	1338	(48.73%)	Catch up sleep hours >2 hrs	62	(2.26%)
Married	1341	(48.83%)	Missing	6	(0.22%)
Divorced	51	(1.86%)	<b>Physical exercise</b>		
Widowed	16	(0.58%)	None	1668	(60.74%)
<b>BMI</b>			Regular	1078	
$\leq 24$	1889	(68.79%)	<90 minutes/week	497	(18.10%)
>24	820	(29.86%)	$\geq 90$ and <150 minutes/week	289	(10.52%)
Missing	37	(1.35%)	$\geq 150$ minutes/week	281	(10.23%)
<b>Smoking</b>			Missing	11	(0.40%)
No	2702	(98.40%)	<b>Weekly work hours</b>		
Yes	26	(0.95%)	20-40 hours	1131	(41.19%)
Missing	18	(0.66%)	41-60 hours	1379	(50.22%)
<b>Betel Nut Usage</b>			>60 hours	229	(8.34%)
No	2676	(97.45%)	Missing	7	(0.25%)
Yes	2	(0.07%)	<b>Lifestyle factors*</b>		

Missing	68	(2.48%)	None	105	(3.8%)
<b>Alcohol Consumption</b>			One	369	(13.5%)
No	2620	(95.41%)	Two	593	(21.7%)
Yes	126	(4.59%)	Three	736	(26.9%)
<b>Work type</b>			Four	734	(26.8%)
Day shift	1775	(64.64%)	Five	202	(7.4%)
Night shift	184	(6.70%)			
Graveyard shift	139	(5.06%)			
Rotating shift	648	(23.60%)			

\* Lifestyle factors: Abnormal meal times, Frequently eat out, Lack of sleep, No exercise, Weekly work hours>40hours.

### Factors associated with work-related burnout

The reliability of the WB questionnaire was assessed by Cronbach's  $\alpha$  for each item, with resulting scores of 0.866, indicating a high internal consistency.

Table 2 displays the distribution of WB levels according to sociodemographic, working, and lifestyle factors. The percentage of the respondents with a low/medium/high level of WB was 38.71%/36.64%/24.65%, respectively.

Women displayed significantly higher scores (65.6%) in the medium and high levels of WB than did men (45.5%). Those who were single had higher WB scores than those married. The 55-66 age group had the lowest percentage in the high level of WB, with the 21-34 age group having the highest percentage. Those with 15-24 years of employed service showed a significantly higher percentage (68.9%) in the medium and high levels of WB. Amongst medical professions, nurses had the highest WB scores, while the administrative supervisors had the lowest scores. The non-day shift workers had higher WB scores than the day shift workers did. There was a significant effect on WB levels by the total weekly hours of work.

Smokers had lower WB scores than non-smokers, but there was no difference in the WB scores amongst alcohol drinkers and betel nut users. There was no significant effect on WB levels by a worker's BMI status. Abnormal meal times, frequently eating out, lack of sleep, no exercise, and weekly work hours > 40 were positively correlated with WB levels.

**Table 2. Distribution of work-related burnout levels according to sociodemographic, working, and lifestyle factors**

Factors	Work-related burnout						Total (n=2746)	p-value
	Low (n=1063)		Medium (n=1006)		High (n=677)			
<b>Profession</b>								
Doctor (V.S.)	75	(44.9%)	65	(38.9%)	27	(16.2%)	167	(6.1%)
Doctor (R)	77	(40.3%)	65	(34.0%)	49	(25.7%)	191	(7.0%)
Nurse	350	(24.9%)	568	(40.4%)	488	(34.7%)	1,406	(51.2%)
Medical technician	165	(45.0%)	140	(38.1%)	62	(16.9%)	367	(13.4%)
Administrative supervisor	14	(87.5%)	1	(6.3%)	1	(6.3%)	16	(0.6%)
Administrative staff	382	(63.8%)	167	(27.9%)	50	(8.3%)	599	(21.8%)
<b>Age (years)</b>								
21-34	458	(35.2%)	448	(34.5%)	394	(30.3%)	1,300	(47.3%)
35-44	226	(37.5%)	240	(39.8%)	137	(22.7%)	603	(22.0%)
45-54	246	(39.4%)	251	(40.2%)	128	(20.5%)	625	(22.8%)
55-66	133	(61.0%)	67	(30.7%)	18	(8.3%)	218	(7.9%)
<b>Gender</b>								
Male	321	(54.5%)	181	(30.7%)	87	(14.8%)	589	(21.4%)
Female	742	(34.4%)	825	(38.2%)	590	(27.4%)	2,157	(78.6%)
<b>Length of service (years) (n=2,595)</b>								
< 5 years	334	(35.4%)	333	(35.3%)	277	(29.3%)	944	(36.4%)
5-14 years	254	(37.1%)	258	(37.7%)	173	(25.3%)	685	(26.4%)
15-24 years	163	(31.2%)	219	(41.9%)	141	(27.0%)	523	(20.2%)
>24 years	231	(52.1%)	154	(34.8%)	58	(13.1%)	443	(17.1%)
<b>Marital status</b>								
Single	451	(33.7%)	494	(36.9%)	393	(29.4%)	1338	(48.7%)
Married	581	(43.3%)	489	(36.5%)	271	(20.2%)	1341	(48.8%)
Divorced	23	(45.1%)	17	(33.3%)	11	(21.6%)	51	(1.9%)
Widowed	8	(50.0%)	6	(37.5%)	2	(12.5%)	16	(0.6%)
<b>Smoking (n=2728)</b>								
No	1038	(38.4%)	991	(36.7%)	673	(24.9%)	2702	(99.0%)
Yes	17	(65.4%)	7	(26.9%)	2	(7.7%)	26	(1.0%)
<b>Betel Nut Usage (n=2678)</b>								
No	1032	(38.6%)	984	(36.8%)	660	(24.7%)	2,676	(99.9%)
Yes	0	(0.0%)	1	(50.0%)	1	(50.0%)	2	(0.1%)
<b>Alcohol Consumption</b>								
No	1011	(38.6%)	958	(36.6%)	651	(24.8%)	2620	(95.4%)
Yes	52	(41.3%)	48	(38.1%)	26	(20.6%)	126	(4.6%)
<b>Meal time</b>								
Normal	677	(55.0%)	407	(33.0%)	148	(12.0%)	1232	(44.9%)
Abnormal	386	(25.5%)	599	(39.6%)	529	(34.9%)	1514	(55.1%)
<b>Eat out</b>								

0-1 meal	415	(48.9%)	304	(35.8%)	129	(15.2%)	848	(30.9%)		
2-3 meals	648	(34.1%)	702	(37.0%)	548	(28.9%)	1898	(69.1%)		
<b>Lack of sleep</b>										
No	677	(60.2%)	329	(29.3%)	118	(10.5%)	1124	(40.9%)	<0.001**	
Yes	386	(23.8%)	677	(41.7%)	559	(34.5%)	1622	(59.1%)		
<b>Physical exercise</b>										
None	562	(33.7%)	633	(37.9%)	473	(28.4%)	1,668	(60.7%)	<0.001**	
Regular	501	(46.5%)	373	(34.6%)	204	(18.9%)	1,078	(39.3%)		
<b>BMI (n=2,709)</b>										
≤24	704	(37.3%)	700	(37.1%)	485	(25.7%)	1,889	(69.7%)	0.052	
>24	345	(42.1%)	288	(35.1%)	187	(22.8%)	820	(30.3%)		
<b>Weekly work hours (n=2,739)</b>										
20-40 hours	620	(54.8%)	372	(32.9%)	139	(12.3%)	1,131	(41.3%)	<0.001**	
>40 hours	439	(27.3%)	632	(39.3%)	537	(33.4%)	1,608	(58.7%)		
<b>Work type</b>										
Day shift	802	(45.2%)	636	(35.8%)	337	(19.0%)	1,775	(64.6%)	<0.001**	
Non-day shift	261	(26.9%)	370	(38.1%)	340	(35.0%)	971	(35.4%)		
<b>Lifestyle factors<sup>#</sup></b>										
None	71	(67.6%)	30	(28.6%)	4	(3.8%)	105	(3.8%)	<0.001**	
One	248	(67.2%)	99	(26.8%)	22	(6.0%)	369	(13.5%)		
Two	321	(54.1%)	197	(33.2%)	75	(12.6%)	593	(21.7%)		
Three	243	(33.0%)	304	(41.3%)	189	(25.7%)	736	(26.9%)		
Four	143	(19.5%)	297	(40.5%)	294	(40.1%)	734	(26.8%)		
Five	33	(16.3%)	77	(38.1%)	92	(45.5%)	202	(7.4%)		
<b>Sleep hours (n=2740)</b>										
No lack of sleep	677	(60.2%)	329	(29.3%)	118	(10.5%)	1124	(41.0%)	<0.001**	
Lack of sleep										
Workday sleep hours <6 hrs										
Catch-up sleep hours ≤0 hrs	13	(19.7%)	26	(39.4%)	27	(40.9%)	66	(2.4%)		
Catch-up sleep hours >0 and ≤2 hrs	60	(24.7%)	110	(45.3%)	73	(30.0%)	243	(8.9%)		
Catch-up sleep hours >2 hrs	88	(29.0%)	114	(37.6%)	101	(33.3%)	303	(11.1%)		
Workday sleep hours ≥6 and <7 hrs										
Catch-up sleep hours ≤0 hrs	22	(19.1%)	53	(46.1%)	40	(34.8%)	115	(4.2%)		
Catch-up sleep hours >0 and ≤2 hrs	106	(23.5%)	193	(42.7%)	153	(33.8%)	452	(16.5%)		
Catch-up sleep hours >2 hrs	53	(25.1%)	81	(38.4%)	77	(36.5%)	211	(7.7%)		
Workday sleep hours ≥7 hrs										
Catch-up sleep hours ≤0 hrs	12	(19.4%)	24	(38.7%)	26	(41.9%)	62	(2.3%)		
Catch-up sleep hours >0 and ≤2 hrs	18	(17.6%)	51	(50.0%)	33	(32.4%)	102	(3.7%)		
Catch-up sleep hours >2 hrs	10	(16.1%)	24	(38.7%)	28	(45.2%)	62	(2.3%)		

Exercise time per week (n=2735)								
No physical exercise	562	(33.7%)	633	(37.9%)	473	(28.4%)	1,668	(61.0%)
Regular physical exercise								
<90 minutes/week	224	(45.1%)	195	(39.2%)	78	(15.7%)	497	(18.2%)
≥90 and <150 minutes/week	133	(46.0%)	86	(29.8%)	70	(24.2%)	289	(10.6%)
≥150 minutes/week	135	(48.0%)	90	(32.0%)	56	(19.9%)	281	(10.3%)

Chi-Square test. \* $p < 0.05$ , \*\* $p < 0.01$ .

# Lifestyle factors: Abnormal meal times, Frequently eat out, Lack of sleep, No exercise, Weekly work hours >40 hours.

## Independent factors associated with work-related burnout

As detailed in Table 3, multinomial logistic regression demonstrated that administrative staff had the lowest risk for WB when compared to nurses (Adjusted OR: 0.45/0.33, for medium/high level compared to low level). Women had adjusted ORs of 1.41/1.59 for WB (Medium/high level compared with low level) when compared with men. The effects of age, length of service and non-day shift work turned insignificant after adjustments.

For lifestyle factors, abnormal meal time (Adjusted OR: 1.47/2.41), frequently eating out (Adjusted OR: 1.17/1.49), lack of sleep (Adjusted OR: 2.86/5.13), no exercise (Adjusted OR: 1.27/1.41) and work hours >40 (Adjusted OR: 1.56/2.72) were independently associated with work-related burnout (for medium/high level compared to low level).

**Table 3. Multinomial logistic regression of factors associated with Work-related burnout.**

Factors	Work-related burnout					
	Medium vs Low			High vs Low		
	OR	95% CI	<i>p</i> value	OR	95% CI	<i>p</i> value
Gender (M vs F)	1.41	(1.08- 1.85)	0.013*	1.59	(1.11- 2.29)	0.012*
Age (years)						
21-34	ref.			ref.		
35-44	1.17	(0.86- 1.59)	0.323	0.82	(0.56- 1.20)	0.301
45-54	1.23	(0.76- 1.98)	0.403	0.74	(0.41- 1.34)	0.322
55-66	1.19	(0.64- 2.19)	0.583	0.62	(0.26- 1.46)	0.275
Length of service (years)						
< 5 years	ref.			ref.		
5-14 years	0.90	(0.68- 1.19)	0.463	0.85	(0.61- 1.18)	0.342
15-24 years	1.21	(0.77- 1.89)	0.404	1.64	(0.95- 2.82)	0.074

>24 years	0.95	(0.56- 1.61)	0.856	1.02	(0.51- 2.02)	0.960
<b>Profession</b>						
Nurse	ref.			ref.		
Doctor (V.S.)	0.63	(0.39- 1.00)	0.052	0.47	(0.26- 0.87)	0.015*
Doctor (R)	0.64	(0.40- 1.02)	0.063	0.57	(0.34- 0.97)	0.038*
Medical technician	0.83	(0.60- 1.15)	0.268	0.74	(0.49- 1.11)	0.150
Administrative staff supervisor	0.11	(0.01- 0.88)	0.037*	0.45	(0.05- 3.80)	0.462
Administrative staff	0.45	(0.33- 0.61)	<0.001**	0.33	(0.22- 0.50)	<0.001**
Day shift (No vs Yes)	1.04	(0.81- 1.34)	0.753	1.18	(0.88- 1.57)	0.268
Lack of sleep	2.86	(2.33- 3.50)	<0.001**	5.13	(3.94- 6.69)	<0.001**
No physical exercise	1.27	(1.03- 1.55)	0.024*	1.41	(1.10- 1.81)	0.006**
Abnormal meal time	1.47	(1.19- 1.82)	<0.001**	2.41	(1.85- 3.15)	<0.001**
Often eat out	1.17	(0.94- 1.46)	0.152	1.49	(1.12- 1.97)	0.006**
Weekly work hours >40 hours	1.56	(1.26- 1.94)	<0.001**	2.72	(2.08- 3.57)	<0.001**
<b>Lifestyle factors<sup>§#</sup></b>						
None	ref.			ref.		
One	0.91	(0.54- 1.52)	0.717	1.39	(0.45- 4.27)	0.564
Two	1.34	(0.82- 2.19)	0.246	3.37	(1.17- 9.72)	0.025*
Three	2.53	(1.55- 4.14)	<0.001**	9.58	(3.36- 27.31)	<0.001**
Four	3.95	(2.37- 6.58)	<0.001**	21.73	(7.58- 62.31)	<0.001**
Five	4.99	(2.64- 9.43)	<0.001**	32.98	(10.78- 100.87)	<0.001**
<i>p</i> for trend			<0.001**			<0.001**

Multinomial logistic regression. \**p*<0.05, \*\**p*<0.01.

§ Adjusted for Gender, Age, Length of service, Profession, Day shift

# Lifestyle factors: Abnormal meal time, Frequently eat out, Lack of sleep, No exercise, Weekly work hours>40hours.

### Cumulative effects of independent lifestyle factors associated with work-related burnout

The cumulative effect on the WB levels of the five independent factors (Abnormal meal times, Frequently eating out, Lack of sleep, No exercise, and Work hours >40) is displayed in Table 2. As the number of risk factors increases, the proportion of medium and high levels of WB increases (32.4%, 32.8%, 45.9%, 67.0%, 80.5%, 83.7%), revealing the dose-response effect.

Table 3 reveals the multinomial logistic regression of the number of lifestyle factors associated with WB. The Adjusted OR (medium level compared to low level) of the participants with factor numbers from 1 to 5 were 0.91 (95% CI: 0.54 to 1.52), 1.34 (95% CI: 0.82~2.19), 2.53 (95% CI: 1.55~4.14), 3.95 (95% CI: 2.37~6.58), 4.99 (95% CI: 2.64~9.43), compared to those without any

factors. The Adjusted OR (high level compared to low level) of the participants with factor numbers from 1 to 5 were 1.39 (95% CI: 0.45 to 4.27), 3.37 (95% CI: 1.17~9.72), 9.58 (95% CI: 3.36~27.31), 21.73 (95% CI: 7.58~62.31), 32.98 (95% CI: 10.78~100.87), compared to those without any factors. The significant effects of WB (high level compared to low level) can be found in participants with at least two factors, when compared to those without any factors.

#### Association between weekend catch-up sleep hours and work-related burnout.

The participants who experienced a lack of sleep were categorized into groups based upon their workday sleep hours and weekend catch-up sleep hours. The numbers of each group are shown in Table 1. The distribution of WB levels according to the different groups is shown in Table 2.

In Table 4, multinomial logistic regression model demonstrates trend over different groups. In the “workday sleep hours <6 hours” group, those with more weekend catch-up sleep hours had lower WB scores (Adjusted OR: 7.17/4.88/ 4.29 for  $\leq 0 / >0$  and  $\leq 2 / >2$  hours, compared to those with enough sleep). In the “workday sleep hours  $\geq 6$  and <7 hours” group, those with more weekend catch-up sleep hours also had lower WB scores (Adjusted OR: 6.26/ 5.90/4.16 for  $\leq 0, >0$  and  $\leq 2, >2$  hours, compared to those with enough sleep). However, in the “workday sleep hours  $\geq 7$  hours” group, those with more catch up sleep hours had higher WB scores (Adjusted OR: 4.91/4.94/6.74 for  $\leq 0 / >0$  and  $\leq 2 / >2$  hours, compared to those with enough sleep) (Figure 1).

**Table 4. Subgroup analysis: Multinomial logistic regression of sleep hours associated with Work-related burnout.**

Factors	Multivariate model					
	Medium vs Low			High vs Low		
	OR	95% CI	p-value	OR	95% CI	p-value
<b>Workdays and weekend catch-up sleep hours<sup>s</sup></b>						
No lack of sleep	ref.			ref.		
Lack of sleep						
Workday sleep hours <6 hrs						
Catch-up sleep hours $\leq 0$ hrs	2.90	(1.38- 6.09)	0.005**	7.17	(3.31- 15.53)	<0.001**
Catch-up sleep hours >0 and $\leq 2$ hrs	3.09	(2.14- 4.47)	<0.001**	4.88	(3.14- 7.61)	<0.001**
Catch-up sleep hours >2 hrs	2.13	(1.52- 2.98)	<0.001**	4.29	(2.89- 6.37)	<0.001**
Workday sleep hours $\geq 6$ and <7 hrs						

Catch-up sleep hours $\leq 0$ hrs	3.74	(2.12- 6.57)	<0.001**	6.26	(3.33- 11.76)	<0.001**
Catch-up sleep hours >0 and $\leq 2$ hrs	3.38	(2.50- 4.57)	<0.001**	5.90	(4.10- 8.47)	<0.001**
Catch-up sleep hours >2 hrs	2.33	(1.54- 3.51)	<0.001**	4.16	(2.63- 6.60)	<0.001**
Workday sleep hours $\geq 7$ hrs						
Catch-up sleep hours $\leq 0$ hrs	2.40	(1.13- 5.08)	0.022*	4.91	(2.24- 10.75)	<0.001**
Catch-up sleep hours >0 and $\leq 2$ hrs	3.77	(2.10- 6.77)	<0.001**	4.94	(2.54- 9.63)	<0.001**
Catch-up sleep hours >2 hrs	2.98	(1.32- 6.71)	0.008**	6.74	(2.94- 15.46)	<0.001**
<b>Exercise time per week #</b>						
No physical exercise	ref			ref		
Regular physical exercise						
<90 minutes/week	0.96	(0.74- 1.26)	0.786	0.62	(0.44- 0.89)	0.008**
$\geq 90$ and <150 minutes/week	0.72	(0.52- 1.01)	0.057	0.85	(0.58- 1.25)	0.413
$\geq 150$ minutes/week	0.75	(0.54- 1.05)	0.092	0.77	(0.51- 1.16)	0.209

Multinomial logistic regression. \* $p < 0.05$ , \*\* $p < 0.01$ .

\$ Adjusted for gender, age, length of service, profession, day shift, exercise, meal time, eat out, work hours.

# Adjusted for gender, age, length of service, profession, day shift, lack of sleep, mealtime, eat out, work hours.

We also attempted to categorize the participants who with regular physical exercise by total weekly exercise hours. The numbers for each subgroup and the distribution of WB levels according to the different subgroups are shown in Tables 1 and 2. However, we could not determine the dose-response relationship between weekly exercise hours and WB levels after adjustments (Table 4).

## DISCUSSION

To our knowledge, this is the first study to assess the cumulative effect of combined unhealthy lifestyle factors on WB and the associations between weekend catch-up sleep and WB in the medical workplace. Our findings show that five key modifiable lifestyle factors, including abnormal meal times, often eating out, lack of sleep, no exercise, and weekly work hours >40, were independently associated with WB levels. The cumulative effects of these combined unhealthy lifestyle factors were demonstrated: As the numbers of the above lifestyle factors increase, the proportion of the medium and high levels of WB elevate. Amongst the above factors, a lack of sleep is the most relevant to WB in the medical workplace. In the subgroup analysis of sleep hours, for those with workday sleep hours less than 7 hours, weekend catch-up sleep is related to reducing burnout risk.



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3 1 However, for those with workday sleep hours greater than 7 hours, weekend catch-up sleep is related  
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5 2 to elevating burnout risk.

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8 3 For non-modifiable factors, our findings remain consistent with previous studies which concluded  
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10 4 that females were independently associated with higher burnout levels.<sup>2 21</sup> Our study also confirmed  
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12 5 a previous study that being a nurse was associated with higher burnout levels.<sup>2</sup> However, the  
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14 6 occupational effect of nursing became insignificant after adjustments, except for comparison with  
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16 7 administrative staff. Differently from previous studies,<sup>2 4 21 22</sup> one's length of service and age were  
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18 8 not significant risk factors for WB after adjustments in our study. The possible explanation for this is  
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20 9 that our results have been adjusted by additional lifestyle factors when compared to previous  
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22 10 studies.<sup>2 4 21</sup>

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26 11 For other modifiable factors, our study has also revealed that obesity is not an independent risk  
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28 12 factor for WB, as those in our study exhibiting a higher BMI displayed lower burnout scores, which  
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30 13 was consistent with previous research.<sup>23</sup> The possible explanation for this is that hypercortisolism is  
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32 14 commonly associated with increased food intake and body weight gain.<sup>24</sup> However, burnout was  
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34 15 more consistently associated with hypocortisolism,<sup>25</sup> which leads to the inhibition of food  
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36 16 consumption. In contrast to other studies,<sup>26 27</sup> our results disclosed that smokers have lower WB  
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38 17 scores compared to non-smokers, while there was no difference in the WB scores amongst alcohol  
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40 18 drinkers and betel nut users. This may be due to the characteristics of the study population in the  
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42 19 Taiwan workplace, in which less than 5% of the participants possessed a 'smoking', 'drinking', or  
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44 20 'betel nut use' habit.<sup>28 29</sup>

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49 21 For the five key modifiable factors in our study, "normal meal times" and "less eating out" were  
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51 22 significantly associated with a lower risk of WB levels. Although no previous studies have directly  
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53 23 investigated the relationship between these two factors and burnout, a similar finding was reported  
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55 24 that higher levels of fast-food consumption was to be positively associated with burnout.<sup>7</sup> Moreover,  
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57 25 we confirmed the protective effects of being "physically active" in the prevention of burnout, which  
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3 1 is consistent with previous studies.<sup>5 7 30 31</sup> Burnout prevalence was lower amongst students who  
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5 2 exercised consistently following CDC recommendations, compared with those who exercised less.<sup>5 30</sup>  
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8 3 Previous studies did not find the dose-response relationship for exercise hours, which is similar to  
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10 4 our findings.<sup>22</sup> Additionally, we found that long work hours were a risk factor for higher WB levels.  
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12 5 Previous studies also demonstrated that “Working more than 14 consecutive hours” and “Working  
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15 6 over 40 hours per week” were independent risk factors associated with burnout.<sup>5 21</sup>  
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17 7 For the most relevant factor to WB, lack of sleep, our result was similar with previous studies.<sup>6 22</sup>  
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19 8 <sup>31</sup> Weishan Chin, et al. found that when compared to those who slept more than 7 hours, the nurse  
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22 9 who slept less than 6 hours per working day had a higher risk for WB.<sup>6</sup> In addition, Megan R. Wolf,  
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24 10 et al. also found that sleeping less than 7 hours was an independent predictor of burnout amongst  
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26 11 medical students.<sup>31</sup> Although certain studies focused on the relationship between chronotype/social  
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28 12 jetlag and burnout,<sup>15</sup> no previous studies had directly investigated the association between weekend  
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31 13 catch-up sleep hours and burnout.  
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33 14 Our result revealed that weekend catch-up sleep may correlate to a lower burnout risk for those  
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35 15 with a short workday sleep duration (less than 7). This finding is similar to the previous report of  
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37  
38 16 Yun Hwan Oh, et al.<sup>12</sup> They found that participants with a short workday sleep duration (less than 7  
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40 17 hours) showed significant differences in the health-related quality of life between weekend catch-up  
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42 18 sleep group and non-catch-up sleep group. The possible mechanisms might be that participants with  
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45 19 short workday sleep duration have more sleep debt than do others. It can be explained by  
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47 20 compensating role of weekend catch-up sleep for sleep debt caused by lack of workday sleep  
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49 21 duration.<sup>12</sup> But it is hard to confirm the causal relationship between weekend catch-up sleep and WB,  
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51  
52 22 because of limitation of the study design.  
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54 23 Although there have been some studies which focused on the association between combined  
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56 24 healthy lifestyles and risk of depressive symptoms,<sup>11</sup> there is no similar study design for burnout. As  
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58  
59 25 a result, our report is the first study to assess the cumulative effect of multiple unhealthy lifestyle  
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3 1 factors on the burnout level. Considering that the impact of lifestyle factors on burnout may vary  
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5 2 from culture to culture, we chose lifestyle factors from the questionnaire released by the  
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8 3 Occupational Safety and Health Administration of the Ministry of Labor in Taiwan. Finally, only  
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10 4 factors independently associated with burnout were included in the calculation of the cumulative  
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12 5 effects.

14  
15 6 Our study has particular strengths. First, the modifiable risk factors included in our study were  
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17 7 selected from the questionnaire based upon an legally authorized program released by an official  
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19 8 department. Therefore, these factors are both culturally representative and suitable indicators to  
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21 9 assess the local medical workplace. Second, we conducted a stratified analysis of “workday sleep  
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24 10 hours” and “weekend catch-up sleep hours”, in order to provide an overall risk assessment of  
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26 11 weekend catch-up sleep for WB, according to different workday sleep hours.

28  
29 12 This study also has several limitations. First, the study design is cross-sectional, therefore a causal  
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31 13 relationship could not be established. However, we can conclude that there is an association between  
32  
33 14 these modifiable risk factors and WB. Second, there is no information regarding the amount of sleep  
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35 15 hours for workers who have enough sleep in this questionnaire. Therefore, our recommendations on  
36  
37  
38 16 the burnout risk for “weekend catch-up sleep hours” and “workday sleep hours”, can only be applied  
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40 17 to staff experiencing a lack of sleep. Third, the purpose of the program was to select a high-risk  
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42 18 group experiencing burnout and then introduced workplace health promotion program and physician  
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44 19 interviews. These measures will inevitably take up part of the weekly working hours and may affect  
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46  
47 20 the consistency of the questionnaire. Besides, information of this study is mainly based on self-report  
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49 21 measures, and the influence of information bias still remain. However, the results of our  
50  
51 22 questionnaire were assessed, and given a Cronbach's  $\alpha$  score of 0.866, indicating it ensures a high  
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54 23 level of reliability.

## 58 25 CONCLUSION

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3 1 This study found the associations between five modifiable risk factors and work-related burnout in  
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5 2 the medical workplace in Taiwan, and demonstrated the cumulative effects of the stated factors.  
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8 3 Weekend catch-up sleep may correlate to a lower burnout risk for those with a short workday sleep  
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10 4 duration (less than 7), but to higher burnout risk for those with more than seven. Clinicians should  
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12 5 pay attention to people with combined unhealthy lifestyle factors, especially for short sleep duration  
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14 6 without weekend catch-up sleep in the future. Modifiable risk factors reduction should be reinforced  
15  
16 7 in workplace health promotion for on-site health service physicians, although further prospective  
17  
18 8 studies is necessary to establish the causal relationship.  
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22 9

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30  
31 13

32  
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34  
35 15 implementation. Y-L L completed the analyses and drafted the content. Y-SL and S-YH assisted  
36  
37 16 with the study design and revised the content. W-MC, C-HC and Y-CY assisted with the statistical  
38  
39 17 analysis and revised the content. All authors helped to conceptualize ideas, interpret findings, and  
40  
41 18 review drafts of the manuscript.  
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44

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50  
51 22 **Patient consent** Not required.

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53  
54 23 **Ethical approval** Institutional Review Board I & II, Taichung Veterans General Hospital (Case no.  
55  
56 24 CE18353A).

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58 25 **Data sharing statement** All data generated or analyzed during this study are included in this  
59  
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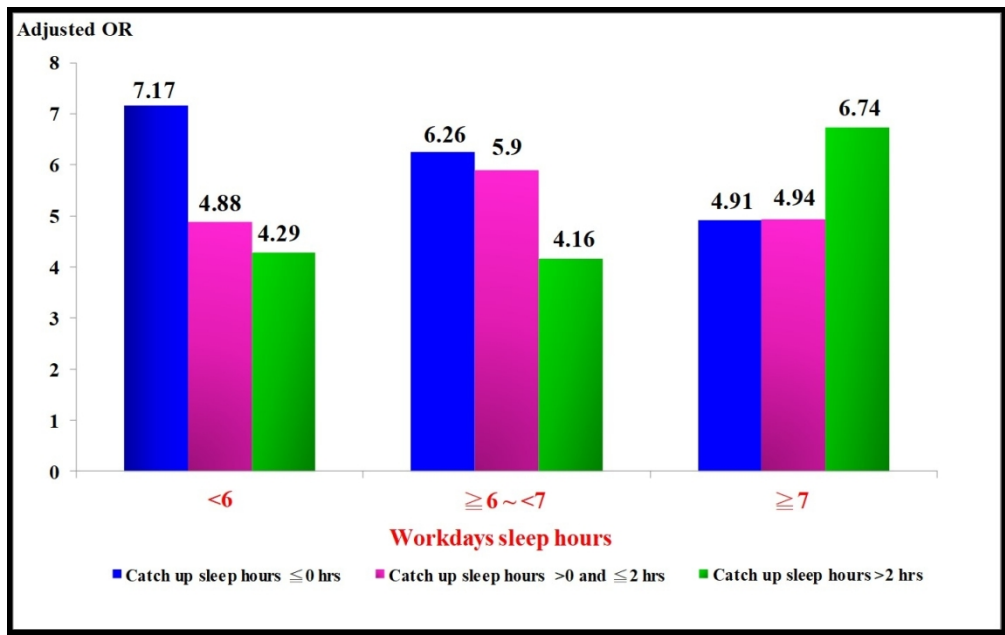
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Weekend catch-up sleep hours associated with work-related burnout

241x151mm (150 x 150 DPI)

# Reporting checklist for cross sectional study.

Based on the STROBE cross sectional guidelines.

## Instructions to authors

Complete this checklist by entering the page numbers from your manuscript where readers will find each of the items listed below.

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			Page Number
<b>Title and abstract</b>			
Title	<a href="#">#1a</a>	Indicate the study's design with a commonly used term in the title or the abstract	1
Abstract	<a href="#">#1b</a>	Provide in the abstract an informative and balanced summary of what was done and what was found	2
<b>Introduction</b>			
Background / rationale	<a href="#">#2</a>	Explain the scientific background and rationale for the investigation being reported	3
Objectives	<a href="#">#3</a>	State specific objectives, including any prespecified hypotheses	4
<b>Methods</b>			
Study design	<a href="#">#4</a>	Present key elements of study design early in the paper	4
Setting	<a href="#">#5</a>	Describe the setting, locations, and relevant dates, including periods of	5



recruitment, exposure, follow-up, and data collection

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2			
3	Eligibility criteria	<a href="#">#6a</a>	Give the eligibility criteria, and the sources and methods of selection of participants. 5
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6		<a href="#">#7</a>	Clearly define all outcomes, exposures, predictors, potential confounders, and effect modifiers. Give diagnostic criteria, if applicable 5
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9			
10	Data sources /	<a href="#">#8</a>	For each variable of interest give sources of data and details of methods of assessment (measurement). Describe comparability of assessment methods if there is more than one group. Give information separately for for exposed and unexposed groups if applicable. 5,6
11	measurement		
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17	Bias	<a href="#">#9</a>	Describe any efforts to address potential sources of bias 5
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19	Study size	<a href="#">#10</a>	Explain how the study size was arrived at 4
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21	Quantitative	<a href="#">#11</a>	Explain how quantitative variables were handled in the analyses. If applicable, describe which groupings were chosen, and why 5
22	variables		
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25	Statistical	<a href="#">#12a</a>	Describe all statistical methods, including those used to control for confounding 6
26	methods		
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29	Statistical	<a href="#">#12b</a>	Describe any methods used to examine subgroups and interactions 6
30	methods		
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33	Statistical	<a href="#">#12c</a>	Explain how missing data were addressed 6
34	methods		
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37	Statistical	<a href="#">#12d</a>	If applicable, describe analytical methods taking account of sampling strategy 6
38	methods		
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41	Statistical	<a href="#">#12e</a>	Describe any sensitivity analyses 6
42	methods		
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44	<b>Results</b>		
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47	Participants	<a href="#">#13a</a>	Report numbers of individuals at each stage of study—eg numbers potentially eligible, examined for eligibility, confirmed eligible, included in the study, completing follow-up, and analysed. Give information separately for for exposed and unexposed groups if applicable. 6
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55	Participants	<a href="#">#13b</a>	Give reasons for non-participation at each stage 6
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57	Participants	<a href="#">#13c</a>	Consider use of a flow diagram 6
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1	Descriptive data	<a href="#">#14a</a>	Give characteristics of study participants (eg demographic, clinical, social) and information on exposures and potential confounders. Give information separately for exposed and unexposed groups if applicable.	6
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6	Descriptive data	<a href="#">#14b</a>	Indicate number of participants with missing data for each variable of interest	6
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10	Outcome data	<a href="#">#15</a>	Report numbers of outcome events or summary measures. Give information separately for exposed and unexposed groups if applicable.	8
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14	Main results	<a href="#">#16a</a>	Give unadjusted estimates and, if applicable, confounder-adjusted estimates and their precision (eg, 95% confidence interval). Make clear which confounders were adjusted for and why they were included	8
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19	Main results	<a href="#">#16b</a>	Report category boundaries when continuous variables were categorized	8~14
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21	Main results	<a href="#">#16c</a>	If relevant, consider translating estimates of relative risk into absolute risk for a meaningful time period	8~14
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25	Other analyses	<a href="#">#17</a>	Report other analyses done—e.g., analyses of subgroups and interactions, and sensitivity analyses	8~14
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29	<b>Discussion</b>			
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31	Key results	<a href="#">#18</a>	Summarise key results with reference to study objectives	14
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34	Limitations	<a href="#">#19</a>	Discuss limitations of the study, taking into account sources of potential bias or imprecision. Discuss both direction and magnitude of any potential bias.	17
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39	Interpretation	<a href="#">#20</a>	Give a cautious overall interpretation considering objectives, limitations, multiplicity of analyses, results from similar studies, and other relevant evidence.	15~17
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44	Generalisability	<a href="#">#21</a>	Discuss the generalisability (external validity) of the study results	15~17
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47	<b>Other</b>			
48	<b>Information</b>			
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51	Funding	<a href="#">#22</a>	Give the source of funding and the role of the funders for the present study and, if applicable, for the original study on which the present article is based	18
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# BMJ Open

## Modifiable Risk Factors Related to Burnout Levels in the Medical Workplace in Taiwan: a Cross-sectional Study

Journal:	<i>BMJ Open</i>
Manuscript ID	bmjopen-2019-032779.R1
Article Type:	Original research
Date Submitted by the Author:	13-Sep-2019
Complete List of Authors:	Lin, Yu-Li; Taichung Veterans General Hospital, Department of Family Medicine Chen, Cing-Hua; Taichung Veterans General Hospital, Department of Nursing and Occupational Safety and Health Office Chu, Wei-Min ; Taichung Veterans General Hospital, Division of Occupational Medicine, Department of Emergency Medicine; Chung Shan Medical University, Institute of Medicine Hu, Sung-Yuan; Taichung Veterans General Hospital, Division of Occupational Medicine, Department of Emergency Medicine; National Taichung University of Science and Technology, Department of Nursing, College of Health Liou, Yi-Sheng; Taichung Veterans General Hospital, Department of Family Medicine; National Defense Medical Center, School of Public Health Yang, Yi-Chien ; China Medical University Hospital, Department of Neurology Tsan, Yu-Tse ; Taichung Veterans General Hospital, Division of Occupational Medicine, Department of Emergency Medicine; Chung Shan Medical University, School of Medicine
<b>Primary Subject Heading</b>:	Occupational and environmental medicine
Secondary Subject Heading:	Public health, Global health
Keywords:	Work-related burnout, Combined lifestyle factors, Weekend catch-up sleep

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3 **Modifiable Risk Factors Related to Burnout Levels in the Medical Workplace in**  
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5 **Taiwan: a Cross-sectional Study**  
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10 Yu-Li Lin<sup>a</sup>, Cing-Hua Chen<sup>b</sup>, Wei-Min Chu<sup>c,d</sup>, Sung-Yuan Hu<sup>d,e,f</sup>, Yi-Sheng Liou<sup>a</sup>,  
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## ABSTRACT

**Objectives:** To detect the combined effects of lifestyle factors on work-related burnout (WB) and to analyze the impact of the number of weekend catch-up sleep hours on burnout risk in a medical workplace.

**Design:** Cross-sectional study.

**Setting:** Hospital-based survey in Taiwan.

**Participants:** In total, 2746 participants completed the hospital's Overload Health Control System questionnaire for the period from the first day of January 2016 through to the end of December 2016, with a response rate of 70.5%. The voluntary participants included 358 physicians, 1406 nurses, 367 medical technicians, and 615 administrative staff.

**Primary and secondary outcome measures:** All factors that correlated significantly with WB were entered into a multinomial logistic regression after adjustment for other factors. The dose-response relationship of combined lifestyle factors and catch-up sleep hours associated with WB was explored by logistic regression.

**Results:** After adjustment, five unhealthy factors (abnormal meal times, often eating out, lack of sleep, no exercise, and weekly work duration >40 hours) were independently associated with WB. As the number of risk factors increased, so did the proportion of medium and high severity of WB. A lack of sleep was found to be the most significant factor related to WB (Adjusted OR=5.13, 95% CI 3.94 to 6.69). For those with less than seven hours' sleep on workdays, weekend catch-up sleep was found to be related to a reduction in burnout risk.

**Conclusions:** This study demonstrated that WB in the medical workplace was affected by five unhealthy lifestyle factors, and combinations of these factors were associated with greater severity of WB. Weekend catch-up sleep was correlated with

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3 lower burnout risk in those with a short workday sleep duration (less than 7 hours).  
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5 Clinicians should pay particular attention to medical staff with a combination of  
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7 unhealthy lifestyle factors, especially short sleep duration without weekend catch-up  
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9 sleep.  
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12 **Keywords:** Work-related burnout; Combined lifestyle factors; Weekend catch-up  
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14 sleep.  
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### 19 **Article Summary**

#### 20 **Strengths and limitations of this study:**

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23 - This is the first study to assess the combined effect of unhealthy lifestyle factors on  
24 work-related burnout (WB) and to determine the associations between weekend  
25 catch-up sleep and WB in the medical workplace.  
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28 - The modifiable risk factors included in our study were identified according to the  
29 contents of a questionnaire based on a legally authorized and official program, and  
30 were therefore culturally representative of the local medical workplace.  
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33 - The study design was cross-sectional, and therefore a causal relationship could not  
34 be established.  
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37 - The associations between weekend catch-up sleep and work-related burnout could  
38 only be applied to staff experiencing a lack of sleep, because there was no information  
39 regarding the number of sleep hours in staff who reported having enough sleep.  
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42 - Information in this study mainly comprised self-reported measures, and thus  
43 information bias may have existed.  
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### 54 **INTRODUCTION**

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57 In recent years, the issue of burnout among employees in the medical profession  
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3 has received increasing attention, as it can result in a number of deleterious physical,  
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5 psychological, and occupational consequences.<sup>1</sup> Previous research has demonstrated  
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7 that burnout is an important factor when assessing mental health in the workplace.<sup>2</sup>  
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10 Physician burnout is increasingly being recognized as a public health crisis, which is  
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12 having a range of negative effects on individual physicians, their patients' care, and  
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14 the healthcare system as a whole.<sup>3</sup> Moreover, the prevalence of burnout is greater  
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16 among residents and fellows than among early career physicians.<sup>4</sup> A meta-analytic  
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18 study revealed that high emotional exhaustion was found in the 31% of the nurses, as  
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20 well as high depersonalisation and low personal accomplishment in 24% and 38% of  
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22 the subjects, respectively.<sup>5</sup> Compared to other professions (registered nurses, and  
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24 respiratory therapists), physicians and nurse practitioners were more likely to report  
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26 work-life conflict, irregular work hours, and heavy work pressure.<sup>6</sup> Another study  
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28 noted that physician assistants (61.8%) and nurses (66%) had higher prevalence of  
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30 high work-related burnout than other medical professions, including physicians  
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32 (38.6%), administrative staff (36.1%), and medical technicians (31.9%), in a regional  
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34 hospital in Taiwan.<sup>2</sup>

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40 Many previous studies have found that certain non-modifiable factors, such as  
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42 gender, age, marriage status, seniority, job category, and shift work, were related to  
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44 burnout.<sup>2 7</sup> The authors of the present study believe that modifiable factors are more  
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46 important than non-modifiable factors, because the former can be improved through  
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48 on-site health services. A few studies have explored modifiable factors related to  
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50 workplace burnout, such as higher consumption of fast food, infrequent exercise, long  
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52 working hours, and fewer sleep hours.<sup>8-10</sup> However, to date, no research has been  
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54 conducted to identify the factors most relevant to burnout, or to assess the combined  
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56 effects of these factors.  
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3 Several studies have shown that the total number of health related lifestyle factors  
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5 has a greater impact on health outcomes (including mortality in cancer patients,  
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7 disability-free survival, and depression) than any single lifestyle factor.<sup>11-14</sup> Individual  
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9 lifestyle behaviors have been associated with elevated burnout level, but to the best of  
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11 our knowledge, the association between combined lifestyle behaviors and  
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13 work-related burnout in the medical workplace has not been investigated.  
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17 One method of coping with insufficient sleep during the workweek is to increase  
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19 the sleep duration during the weekend.<sup>15</sup> Previous studies have demonstrated an  
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21 association between weekend catch-up sleep and various health outcomes, including  
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23 obesity, hypertension, and health-related quality of life.<sup>15-17</sup> However, there are  
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25 currently no data in the literature on the association between weekend catch-up sleep  
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27 and work-related burnout among medical staff.  
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31 Thus, the aims of the present study were : (1) to identify modifiable factors  
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33 associated with work-related burnout in the medical workplace, and to assess the  
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35 effects of combined lifestyle factors on WB; (2) to determine the risk of work-related  
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37 burnout based on the number of weekend catch-up sleep hours in patients with  
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39 varying degrees of sleep insufficiency during the workweek.  
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## 45 **METHODS**

### 46 **Participants and study design**

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48 This study was approved by the Institutional Review Board I & II of Taichung  
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50 Veterans General Hospital (Case no. CE18353A). The study design was  
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52 cross-sectional. The subjects were asked to complete an electronic questionnaire on  
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54 the Overload Health Control System of Taichung Veterans General Hospital from the  
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56 first day of January 2016 through the end of December 2016. In total, 2746  
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3 participants completed the questionnaire, with a response rate of 70.5% (2746/3894).  
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5 The voluntary participants included 167 visiting doctors, 191 resident doctors, 1406  
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7 nurses, 367 medical technicians, and 615 administrative staff (including 16  
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9 supervisors). The data were anonymized prior to analysis to protect the subjects'  
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11 privacy. Participation in the study did not involve any health risks and all subjects'  
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13 personal data were secured.  
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### 19 **Factors in the questionnaire**

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21 In Taiwan, the publication "Guideline for Preventing Diseases Caused by  
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23 Exceptional Workload" was released by the Occupational Safety and Health  
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25 Administration of the Ministry of Labor in 2014. According to the guideline, laborers  
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27 must fill out the overwork assessment questionnaire, which contains items related to  
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29 sociodemographics (gender, age, and marital status), working conditions (current  
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31 profession, length of employment, and self-reported type of work), lifestyle factors  
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33 (smoking/alcohol/betel nut use status, sleep condition, meal times, frequency of eating  
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35 out, exercise habits, and self-reported working hours per week). The items in the  
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37 questionnaire were selected by an expert consensus of the Occupational Safety and  
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39 Health Administration of the Ministry of Labor of Taiwan. If participants selected  
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41 "lack of sleep" or "regular physical exercise" in the questionnaire, they were required  
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43 to provide their number of sleep hours on workdays and free days, as well as their  
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45 total duration of weekly exercise. Weekend catch-up sleep hours were calculated  
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47 according to the following formula: Weekend sleep hours minus the workday sleep  
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49 hours.<sup>18</sup> Workday sleep duration was categorized into 3 groups: <6 hours,  $\geq 6$  to <7  
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51 hours,  $\geq 7$  hours. Weekend catch-up sleep duration was categorized into 3 groups:  $\leq 0$   
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53 hours, >0 to  $\leq 2$  hours, >2 hours.  
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## Burnout

The newly developed Copenhagen Burnout Inventory (CBI) by Kristensen et al.<sup>19</sup> is a more straightforward measurement of burnout in medical professionals, as compared to the standard Maslach Burnout Inventory (MBI).<sup>20</sup> The CBI assesses burnout status through the use of three criteria: personal burnout, work-related burnout, and client-related burnout. Additionally, a Chinese version of the Copenhagen Burnout Inventory (C-CBI) was constructed based upon the CBI, which displayed good validity and reliability.<sup>21 22</sup> In this study, we adopted ‘Work-related Burnout (WB)’ subscales of the C-CBI to assess burnout risk in the workplace. The C-CBI ‘work-related burnout’ subscales consist of 7 items.<sup>21</sup> All items used a Likert-type, five-response category scale. The responses were rescaled to a 0–100 metric. According to a previous study,<sup>21</sup> the C-CBI WB had a Cronbach’s  $\alpha$  coefficient of 0.87. For work-related burnout scores, burnout scores of  $\geq 45$  and  $>60$  indicated medium and high burnout, respectively, in the analysis.

## Statistical analysis

Data from the C-CBI WB subscales were analyzed for internal consistency using Cronbach’s  $\alpha$ . The WB score was categorized into three levels: Low, Medium, and High. Demographic information, working conditions, and lifestyle factors were expressed by the category variable and were recorded as numbers (%). Differences in the distribution of categorical variables for WB level were tested using the  $\chi^2$  test. All factors with significant associations with WB were entered into multinomial logistic regression after adjustment for other factors to calculate the odds ratios (ORs) (95% CIs). All calculations were performed using the statistical software program SPSS version 23, with the level of significance set at  $p < 0.05$ . We used the STROBE

cross-sectional checklist when writing this report.<sup>23</sup>

## RESULTS

### Characteristics of the participants

The demographic information, working conditions, and lifestyle factors of the participants are summarized in Table 1. Most participants were female (78.55%), 48.83% were married, and 48.73% were single. More than half of the participants were nurses (51.20%) and on day shift (64.64%). Nearly half of the participants were young (between 21 to 34 years old, 47.34%), and around one third were employed for less than 5 years (34.38%). Most participants denied any smoking/alcohol/betel nut use (98.40%/97.45%/95.41%) and had normal BMI (68.79%). Analysis of employees' lifestyle habits revealed abnormal meal times (55.13%), high eating out rates (93.26% reported eating out for at least one meal per day), lack of sleep (59.07%), non-regular physical exercise (60.74%), and working overtime (>40 hours)(58.56%).

**Table 1. Characteristics of participants (N=2746)**

Factors	N	%	Factors	N	%
<b>Profession</b>			<b>Mealtime</b>		
Doctor (visiting physician)	167	(6.08%)	Normal	1232	(44.87%)
Doctor (resident)	191	(6.96%)	Abnormal	1514	(55.13%)
Nurse	1406	(51.20%)	<b>Eat out</b>		
Medical technician	367	(13.36%)	0 meal	185	(6.74%)
Administrative staff (supervisors)	16	(0.58%)	1 meal	663	(24.14%)
Administrative staff (other)	599	(21.81%)	2 meals	832	(30.30%)
<b>Age (years)</b>			3 meals	1066	(38.82%)
21-34	1300	(47.34%)	<b>Lack of sleep</b>		
35-44	603	(21.96%)	No	1124	(40.93%)
45-54	625	(22.76%)	Yes	1622	(59.07%)
55-66	218	(7.94%)	<b>Workday sleep hours &lt;6 hrs</b>		
<b>Gender</b>			Catch-up sleep hours ≤ 0 hrs	66	(2.40%)
Male	589	(21.45%)	Catch-up sleep hours >0 and ≤ 2 hrs	243	(8.85%)
Female	2157	(78.55%)	Catch-up sleep hours >2 hrs	303	(11.03%)
<b>Length of service (years)</b>			<b>Workday sleep hours ≥ 6 and &lt;7 hrs</b>		
< 5 years	944	(34.38%)	Catch-up sleep hours ≤ 0 hrs	115	(4.19%)
5-14 years	685	(24.95%)	Catch-up sleep hours >0 and ≤ 2 hrs	452	(16.46%)

15-24 years	523	(19.05%)	Catch-up sleep hours >2 hrs	211	(7.68%)
>24 years	443	(16.13%)	Workday sleep hours $\geq$ 7 hrs		
Missing	151	(5.50%)	Catch-up sleep hours $\leq$ 0 hrs	62	(2.26%)
<b>Marital status</b>			Catch-up sleep hours >0 and $\leq$ 2 hrs	102	(3.71%)
Single	1338	(48.73%)	Catch up sleep hours >2 hrs	62	(2.26%)
Married	1341	(48.83%)	Missing	6	(0.22%)
Divorced	51	(1.86%)	<b>Physical exercise</b>		
Widowed	16	(0.58%)	None	1668	(60.74%)
<b>BMI</b>			Regular	1078	
$\leq$ 24	1889	(68.79%)	<90 minutes/week	497	(18.10%)
>24	820	(29.86%)	$\geq$ 90 and <150 minutes/week	289	(10.52%)
Missing	37	(1.35%)	$\geq$ 150 minutes/week	281	(10.23%)
<b>Smoking</b>			Missing	11	(0.40%)
No	2702	(98.40%)	<b>Weekly work hours</b>		
Yes	26	(0.95%)	20-40 hours	1131	(41.19%)
Missing	18	(0.66%)	41-60 hours	1379	(50.22%)
<b>Betel Nut Usage</b>			>60 hours	229	(8.34%)
No	2676	(97.45%)	Missing	7	(0.25%)
Yes	2	(0.07%)	<b>Lifestyle factors*</b>		
Missing	68	(2.48%)	None	105	(3.8%)
<b>Alcohol Consumption</b>			One	369	(13.5%)
No	2620	(95.41%)	Two	593	(21.7%)
Yes	126	(4.59%)	Three	736	(26.9%)
<b>Work type</b>			Four	734	(26.8%)
Day shift	1775	(64.64%)	Five	202	(7.4%)
Night shift	184	(6.70%)			
Graveyard shift	139	(5.06%)			
Rotating shift	648	(23.60%)			

\* Lifestyle factors: Abnormal meal times, Frequently eat out, Lack of sleep, No exercise, Weekly work hours>40hours.

## Factors associated with work-related burnout

The reliability of the WB questionnaire was assessed by Cronbach's  $\alpha$  for each item, with a resulting score of 0.866, indicating a high internal consistency.

Table 2 displays the distribution of WB levels according to sociodemographic, working, and lifestyle factors. The percentages of the respondents with a low, medium, or high level of WB were 38.71%, 36.64%, and 24.65%, respectively.

Significantly more women than men (65.6% vs. 45.5%, respectively) had a high

WB score, i.e., medium and high levels of WB. Respondents who were single had higher WB scores than those who were married. The 55-66 years age group accounted for the lowest percentage among respondents with a high level of WB, whereas the 21-34 years age group comprised the highest percentage. Among respondents with a medium or high level of WB, those with 15-24 years of employed service constituted the largest percentage (68.9%). With respect to the types of medical professions, nurses had the highest WB scores, while the administrative supervisors had the lowest scores. The non-day shift workers had higher WB scores compared with the day shift workers. The total number of weekly hours of work was significantly correlated with WB level.

Smokers had lower WB scores than non-smokers, but there were no differences in WB scores between alcohol drinkers and non-drinkers or between betel nut users and non-users. There were no significant correlations between WB levels and BMI status. Abnormal meal times, frequently eating out, lack of sleep, no exercise, and > 40 weekly work hours were positively correlated with WB levels.

**Table 2. Distribution of work-related burnout levels according to sociodemographics, working, and lifestyle factors**

Factors	Work-related burnout						Total (n=2746)		p-value
	Low (n=1063)		Medium (n=1006)		High (n=677)				
<b>Profession</b>									
Doctor (visiting physician)	75	(44.9%)	65	(38.9%)	27	(16.2%)	167	(6.1%)	<0.001* *
Doctor (resident)	77	(40.3%)	65	(34.0%)	49	(25.7%)	191	(7.0%)	
Nurse	350	(24.9%)	568	(40.4%)	488	(34.7%)	1,406	(51.2%)	
Medical technician	165	(45.0%)	140	(38.1%)	62	(16.9%)	367	(13.4%)	
Administrative staff (supervisor)	14	(87.5%)	1	(6.3%)	1	(6.3%)	16	(0.6%)	
Administrative staff (other)	382	(63.8%)	167	(27.9%)	50	(8.3%)	599	(21.8%)	
<b>Age (years)</b>									
21-34	458	(35.2%)	448	(34.5%)	394	(30.3%)	1,300	(47.3%)	<0.001* *
35-44	226	(37.5%)	240	(39.8%)	137	(22.7%)	603	(22.0%)	
45-54	246	(39.4%)	251	(40.2%)	128	(20.5%)	625	(22.8%)	
55-66	133	(61.0%)	67	(30.7%)	18	(8.3%)	218	(7.9%)	
<b>Gender</b>									
									<0.001*

Male	321	(54.5%)	181	(30.7%)	87	(14.8%)	589	(21.4%)	*
Female	742	(34.4%)	825	(38.2%)	590	(27.4%)	2,157	(78.6%)	
<b>Length of service (years) (n=2,595)</b>									
< 5 years	334	(35.4%)	333	(35.3%)	277	(29.3%)	944	(36.4%)	<0.001*
5-14 years	254	(37.1%)	258	(37.7%)	173	(25.3%)	685	(26.4%)	*
15-24 years	163	(31.2%)	219	(41.9%)	141	(27.0%)	523	(20.2%)	
>24 years	231	(52.1%)	154	(34.8%)	58	(13.1%)	443	(17.1%)	
<b>Marital status</b>									
Single	451	(33.7%)	494	(36.9%)	393	(29.4%)	1338	(48.7%)	<0.001*
Married	581	(43.3%)	489	(36.5%)	271	(20.2%)	1341	(48.8%)	*
Divorced	23	(45.1%)	17	(33.3%)	11	(21.6%)	51	(1.9%)	
Widowed	8	(50.0%)	6	(37.5%)	2	(12.5%)	16	(0.6%)	
<b>Smoking (n=2728)</b>									
No	1038	(38.4%)	991	(36.7%)	673	(24.9%)	2702	(99.0%)	0.014*
Yes	17	(65.4%)	7	(26.9%)	2	(7.7%)	26	(1.0%)	
<b>Betel Nut Usage (n=2678)</b>									
No	1032	(38.6%)	984	(36.8%)	660	(24.7%)	2,676	(99.9%)	0.500
Yes	0	(0.0%)	1	(50.0%)	1	(50.0%)	2	(0.1%)	
<b>Alcohol Consumption</b>									
No	1011	(38.6%)	958	(36.6%)	651	(24.8%)	2620	(95.4%)	0.558
Yes	52	(41.3%)	48	(38.1%)	26	(20.6%)	126	(4.6%)	
<b>Meal time</b>									
Normal	677	(55.0%)	407	(33.0%)	148	(12.0%)	1232	(44.9%)	<0.001*
Abnormal	386	(25.5%)	599	(39.6%)	529	(34.9%)	1514	(55.1%)	*
<b>Eat out</b>									
0-1 meal	415	(48.9%)	304	(35.8%)	129	(15.2%)	848	(30.9%)	<0.001*
2-3 meals	648	(34.1%)	702	(37.0%)	548	(28.9%)	1898	(69.1%)	*
<b>Lack of sleep</b>									
No	677	(60.2%)	329	(29.3%)	118	(10.5%)	1124	(40.9%)	<0.001*
Yes	386	(23.8%)	677	(41.7%)	559	(34.5%)	1622	(59.1%)	*
<b>Physical exercise</b>									
None	562	(33.7%)	633	(37.9%)	473	(28.4%)	1,668	(60.7%)	<0.001*
Regular	501	(46.5%)	373	(34.6%)	204	(18.9%)	1,078	(39.3%)	*
<b>BMI (n=2,709)</b>									
≤24	704	(37.3%)	700	(37.1%)	485	(25.7%)	1,889	(69.7%)	0.052
>24	345	(42.1%)	288	(35.1%)	187	(22.8%)	820	(30.3%)	
<b>Weekly work hours (n=2,739)</b>									
20-40 hours	620	(54.8%)	372	(32.9%)	139	(12.3%)	1,131	(41.3%)	<0.001*
>40 hours	439	(27.3%)	632	(39.3%)	537	(33.4%)	1,608	(58.7%)	*
<b>Work type</b>									
Day shift	802	(45.2%)	636	(35.8%)	337	(19.0%)	1,775	(64.6%)	<0.001*

Non-day shift	261	(26.9%)	370	(38.1%)	340	(35.0%)	971	(35.4%)	*	
<b>Lifestyle factors#</b>										
None	71	(67.6%)	30	(28.6%)	4	(3.8%)	105	(3.8%)	<0.001* *	
One	248	(67.2%)	99	(26.8%)	22	(6.0%)	369	(13.5%)		
Two	321	(54.1%)	197	(33.2%)	75	(12.6%)	593	(21.7%)		
Three	243	(33.0%)	304	(41.3%)	189	(25.7%)	736	(26.9%)		
Four	143	(19.5%)	297	(40.5%)	294	(40.1%)	734	(26.8%)		
Five	33	(16.3%)	77	(38.1%)	92	(45.5%)	202	(7.4%)		
<b>Sleep hours (n=2740)</b>										
No lack of sleep	677	(60.2%)	329	(29.3%)	118	(10.5%)	1124	(41.0%)	<0.001* *	
Lack of sleep										
Workday sleep hours <6 hrs										
Catch-up sleep hours ≤0 hrs	13	(19.7%)	26	(39.4%)	27	(40.9%)	66	(2.4%)		
Catch-up sleep hours >0 and ≤2 hrs	60	(24.7%)	110	(45.3%)	73	(30.0%)	243	(8.9%)		
Catch-up sleep hours >2 hrs	88	(29.0%)	114	(37.6%)	101	(33.3%)	303	(11.1%)		
Workday sleep hours ≥6 and <7 hrs										
Catch-up sleep hours ≤0 hrs	22	(19.1%)	53	(46.1%)	40	(34.8%)	115	(4.2%)		
Catch-up sleep hours >0 and ≤2 hrs	106	(23.5%)	193	(42.7%)	153	(33.8%)	452	(16.5%)		
Catch-up sleep hours >2 hrs	53	(25.1%)	81	(38.4%)	77	(36.5%)	211	(7.7%)		
Workday sleep hours ≥7 hrs										
Catch-up sleep hours ≤0 hrs	12	(19.4%)	24	(38.7%)	26	(41.9%)	62	(2.3%)		
Catch-up sleep hours >0 and ≤2 hrs	18	(17.6%)	51	(50.0%)	33	(32.4%)	102	(3.7%)		
Catch-up sleep hours >2 hrs	10	(16.1%)	24	(38.7%)	28	(45.2%)	62	(2.3%)		
<b>Exercise per week (n=2735)</b>										
No physical exercise	562	(33.7%)	633	(37.9%)	473	(28.4%)	1,668	(61.0%)	<0.001* *	
Regular physical exercise										
<90 minutes/week	224	(45.1%)	195	(39.2%)	78	(15.7%)	497	(18.2%)		
≥90 and <150 minutes/week	133	(46.0%)	86	(29.8%)	70	(24.2%)	289	(10.6%)		
≥150 minutes/week	135	(48.0%)	90	(32.0%)	56	(19.9%)	281	(10.3%)		

Chi-Square test. \*p<0.05, \*\*p<0.01.

# Lifestyle factors: Abnormal meal times, Frequently eat out, Lack of sleep, No exercise, Weekly work hours>40hours.

### Independent factors associated with work-related burnout

As detailed in Table 3, multinomial logistic regression demonstrated that administrative staff had the lowest risk for WB when compared to nurses (Adjusted OR: 0.45/0.33, for medium/high level compared to low level). Women had adjusted

ORs of 1.41/1.59 for WB (Medium/high level compared with low level) when compared with men. The effects of age, length of service, and non-day shift work were non-significant after adjustments.

In terms of lifestyle factors, abnormal meal time (adjusted OR: 1.47/2.41), frequently eating out (adjusted OR: 1.17/1.49), lack of sleep (adjusted OR: 2.86/5.13), no exercise (adjusted OR: 1.27/1.41), and work hours >40 (adjusted OR: 1.56/2.72) were independently associated with work-related burnout (for medium/high level compared to low level).

**Table 3. Multinomial logistic regression of factors associated with work-related burnout.**

Factors	Work-related burnout					
	Medium vs Low			High vs Low		
	OR	95% CI	p value	OR	95% CI	p value
Gender (M vs F)	1.41	(1.08- 1.85)	0.013*	1.59	(1.11- 2.29)	0.012*
<b>Age (years)</b>						
21-34	ref.			ref.		
35-44	1.17	(0.86- 1.59)	0.323	0.82	(0.56- 1.20)	0.301
45-54	1.23	(0.76- 1.98)	0.403	0.74	(0.41- 1.34)	0.322
55-66	1.19	(0.64- 2.19)	0.583	0.62	(0.26- 1.46)	0.275
<b>Length of service (years)</b>						
< 5 years	ref.			ref.		
5-14 years	0.90	(0.68- 1.19)	0.463	0.85	(0.61- 1.18)	0.342
15-24 years	1.21	(0.77- 1.89)	0.404	1.64	(0.95- 2.82)	0.074
>24 years	0.95	(0.56- 1.61)	0.856	1.02	(0.51- 2.02)	0.960
<b>Profession</b>						
Nurse	ref.			ref.		
Doctor (visiting physician)	0.63	(0.39- 1.00)	0.052	0.47	(0.26- 0.87)	0.015*
Doctor (resident)	0.64	(0.40- 1.02)	0.063	0.57	(0.34- 0.97)	0.038*
Medical technician	0.83	(0.60- 1.15)	0.268	0.74	(0.49- 1.11)	0.150
Administrative staff (supervisor)	0.11	(0.01- 0.88)	0.037*	0.45	(0.05- 3.80)	0.462
Administrative staff (other)	0.45	(0.33- 0.61)	<0.001**	0.33	(0.22- 0.50)	<0.001**
<b>Day shift (No vs Yes)</b>	1.04	(0.81- 1.34)	0.753	1.18	(0.88- 1.57)	0.268
<b>Lack of sleep</b>	2.86	(2.33- 3.50)	<0.001**	5.13	(3.94- 6.69)	<0.001**
<b>No physical exercise</b>	1.27	(1.03- 1.55)	0.024*	1.41	(1.10- 1.81)	0.006**
<b>Abnormal meal time</b>	1.47	(1.19- 1.82)	<0.001**	2.41	(1.85- 3.15)	<0.001**
<b>Often eat out</b>	1.17	(0.94- 1.46)	0.152	1.49	(1.12- 1.97)	0.006**



Weekly work hours >40 hours	1.56	(1.26- 1.94)	<0.001**	2.72	(2.08- 3.57)	<0.001**
<b>Lifestyle factors<sup>§#</sup></b>						
None	ref.			ref.		
One	0.91	(0.54- 1.52)	0.717	1.39	(0.45- 4.27)	0.564
Two	1.34	(0.82- 2.19)	0.246	3.37	(1.17- 9.72)	0.025*
Three	2.53	(1.55- 4.14)	<0.001**	9.58	(3.36- 27.31)	<0.001**
Four	3.95	(2.37- 6.58)	<0.001**	21.73	(7.58- 62.31)	<0.001**
Five	4.99	(2.64- 9.43)	<0.001**	32.98	(10.78- 100.87)	<0.001**
<i>p</i> for trend			<0.001**			<0.001**

Multinomial logistic regression. \* $p < 0.05$ , \*\* $p < 0.01$ .

§ Adjusted for Gender, Age, Length of service, Profession, Day shift

# Lifestyle factors: Abnormal meal time, Frequently eat out, Lack of sleep, No exercise, Weekly work hours >40 hours.

## Combined effects of independent lifestyle factors associated with work-related burnout

The combined effect of the five independent factors (abnormal meal times, frequently eating out, lack of sleep, no exercise, and >40 work hours) is displayed in Table 2. As the number of risk factors increases, the proportion of subjects with medium and high levels of WB increases (32.4%, 32.8%, 45.9%, 67.0%, 80.5%, 83.7% for subjects with 0-5 factors, respectively), in a dose-response manner.

Table 3 reveals the results of the analysis of the number of lifestyle factors associated with WB by multinomial logistic regression. The adjusted OR (medium level compared to low level) of the participants with 1 to 5 lifestyle factors were 0.91 (95% CI: 0.54 to 1.52), 1.34 (95% CI: 0.82~2.19), 2.53 (95% CI: 1.55~4.14), 3.95 (95% CI: 2.37~6.58), 4.99 (95% CI: 2.64~9.43), respectively, compared to those without any factors. The adjusted OR (high level compared to low level) of the participants with 1 to 5 lifestyle factors were 1.39 (95% CI: 0.45 to 4.27), 3.37 (95% CI: 1.17~9.72), 9.58 (95% CI: 3.36~27.31), 21.73 (95% CI: 7.58~62.31), 32.98 (95% CI: 10.78~100.87), compared to those without any factors. There was a significant difference in WB (high level compared to low level) among participants with at least

two factors, when compared to those without any factors.

### Association between weekend catch-up sleep hours and work-related burnout.

The participants who experienced a lack of sleep were categorized into groups based upon their workday sleep hours and weekend catch-up sleep hours. The numbers of each group are shown in Table 1. The distribution of WB levels according to the different groups is shown in Table 2.

In Table 4, the multinomial logistic regression model demonstrates the trends observed in the different groups. In the “workday sleep hours <6 hours” group, those with more weekend catch-up sleep hours had lower WB scores (adjusted OR: 7.17/4.88/ 4.29 for  $\leq 0 / >0$  and  $\leq 2 / >2$  hours, compared to those with enough sleep). In the “workday sleep hours  $\geq 6$  and <7 hours” group, those with more weekend catch-up sleep hours also had lower WB scores (adjusted OR: 6.26/ 5.90/4.16 for  $\leq 0, >0$  and  $\leq 2, >2$  hours, compared to those with enough sleep). However, in the “workday sleep hours  $\geq 7$  hours” group, those with more catch up sleep hours had higher WB scores (adjusted OR: 4.91/4.94/6.74 for  $\leq 0 / >0$  and  $\leq 2 / >2$  hours, compared to those with enough sleep) (Figure 1).

**Table 4. Subgroup analysis: multinomial logistic regression of sleep hours associated with work-related burnout.**

Factors	Multivariate model					
	Medium vs. Low			High vs. Low		
	OR	95% CI	p-value	OR	95% CI	p-value
<b>Workday and weekend catch-up sleep hours<sup>s</sup></b>						
No lack of sleep	ref.			ref.		
Lack of sleep						
Workday sleep hours <6 hrs						
Catch-up sleep hours $\leq 0$ hrs	2.90	(1.38- 6.09)	0.005**	7.17	(3.31- 15.53)	<0.001**
Catch-up sleep hours >0 and $\leq 2$ hrs	3.09	(2.14- 4.47)	<0.001**	4.88	(3.14- 7.61)	<0.001**
Catch-up sleep hours >2 hrs	2.13	(1.52- 2.98)	<0.001**	4.29	(2.89- 6.37)	<0.001**
Workday sleep hours $\geq 6$ and <7 hrs						
Catch-up sleep hours $\leq 0$ hrs	3.74	(2.12- 6.57)	<0.001**	6.26	(3.33- 11.76)	<0.001**

Catch-up sleep hours >0 and $\leq$ 2 hrs	3.38	(2.50- 4.57)	<0.001**	5.90	(4.10- 8.47)	<0.001**
Catch-up sleep hours >2 hrs	2.33	(1.54- 3.51)	<0.001**	4.16	(2.63- 6.60)	<0.001**
Workday sleep hours $\geq$ 7 hrs						
Catch-up sleep hours $\leq$ 0 hrs	2.40	(1.13- 5.08)	0.022*	4.91	(2.24- 10.75)	<0.001**
Catch-up sleep hours >0 and $\leq$ 2 hrs	3.77	(2.10- 6.77)	<0.001**	4.94	(2.54- 9.63)	<0.001**
Catch-up sleep hours >2 hrs	2.98	(1.32- 6.71)	0.008**	6.74	(2.94- 15.46)	<0.001**
<b>Exercise time per week #</b>						
No physical exercise	ref			ref		
Regular physical exercise						
<90 minutes/week	0.96	(0.74- 1.26)	0.786	0.62	(0.44- 0.89)	0.008**
$\geq$ 90 and <150 minutes/week	0.72	(0.52- 1.01)	0.057	0.85	(0.58- 1.25)	0.413
$\geq$ 150 minutes/week	0.75	(0.54- 1.05)	0.092	0.77	(0.51- 1.16)	0.209

Multinomial logistic regression. \* $p$ <0.05, \*\* $p$ <0.01.

\$ Adjusted for gender, age, length of service, profession, day shift, exercise, meal time, frequently eat out, work hours.

# Adjusted for gender, age, length of service, profession, day shift, lack of sleep, mealtime, frequently eat out, work hours.

We also attempted to categorize the participants who had regular physical exercise based on the total weekly exercise hours. The numbers for each subgroup and the distribution of WB levels according to the different subgroups are shown in Tables 1 and 2. However, there was no dose-response relationship between weekly exercise hours and WB levels after adjustment (Table 4).

## DISCUSSION

To our knowledge, this is the first study to assess the combined effect of unhealthy lifestyle factors on WB and to determine the associations between weekend catch-up sleep and WB in the medical workplace. Our findings show that five key modifiable lifestyle factors, including abnormal meal times, often eating out, lack of sleep, no exercise, and >40 weekly work hours, were independently associated with WB levels. The number of these combined unhealthy lifestyle factors was shown to be associated with severity of WB in a dose-dependent manner. As the numbers of the abovementioned lifestyle factors increased, the proportion of respondents with medium or high levels of WB rose. Among these lifestyle factors, a lack of sleep

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2  
3 showed the strongest correlation with WB in the medical workplace. In the subgroup  
4  
5 analysis of sleep hours, among respondents with duration of workday sleep less than 7  
6  
7 hours, weekend catch-up sleep was related to reduced burnout risk. However, for  
8  
9 those with workday sleep hours greater than 7 hours, weekend catch-up sleep was  
10  
11 related to an elevated risk of workplace burnout.  
12  
13

14  
15 For the non-modifiable factors, our findings are consistent with previous studies  
16  
17 which showed that females gender was independently associated with higher burnout  
18  
19 levels.<sup>2 24</sup> Our study also confirmed the results of a previous study that showed being  
20  
21 a nurse was associated with higher burnout levels.<sup>2</sup> However, WB in nurses was not  
22  
23 significantly different compared with other occupations (except administrative staff)  
24  
25 after adjustment. In contrast to other previous studies,<sup>2 24 25</sup> length of service and age  
26  
27 were not significant risk factors for WB after adjustment in our study. A possible  
28  
29 explanation for this is that our results were adjusted for additional lifestyle factors,  
30  
31 whereas some previous studies did not control for other variables.<sup>2 24</sup>  
32  
33

34  
35 With regard to modifiable factors, our study revealed that obesity was not an  
36  
37 independent risk factor for WB, as higher BMI was correlated with lower burnout  
38  
39 scores, which was consistent with previous research.<sup>26</sup> A possible explanation for this  
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41 is that hypercortisolism is commonly associated with increased food intake and body  
42  
43 weight gain.<sup>27</sup> However, burnout was more consistently associated with  
44  
45 hypocortisolism,<sup>28</sup> which leads to the inhibition of food consumption. In contrast to  
46  
47 other studies,<sup>29 30</sup> our results found that smokers had lower WB scores compared to  
48  
49 non-smokers, while there were no differences in WB scores among alcohol drinkers  
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51 and betel nut users compared with their abstaining counterparts. This may be due to  
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53 the sociocultural characteristics of the study population, in which less than 5% of the  
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55 participants reported smoking, drinking, or using betel nuts.<sup>31 32</sup>  
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2  
3 Our analysis of the five key modifiable factors showed that “normal meal times”  
4 and “infrequent eating out” were significantly associated with a lower risk of WB.  
5  
6 Although no previous studies have directly investigated the relationship between these  
7  
8 two factors and burnout, higher levels of fast-food consumption were reported to be  
9  
10 positively associated with burnout.<sup>10</sup> Moreover, we found that being “physically  
11  
12 active” may protect against burnout, as this variable was associated with a low risk of  
13  
14 WB, which is consistent with previous studies.<sup>8 10 33 34</sup> Burnout prevalence was lower  
15  
16 among students who exercised consistently following CDC recommendations,  
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18 compared with those who exercised less.<sup>8 33</sup> Previous studies did not find a  
19  
20 dose-response relationship for exercise hours, which was similar to our findings.<sup>25</sup>  
21  
22 Additionally, we found that long work hours were a risk factor for higher WB levels.  
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24 Previous studies also demonstrated that “Working more than 14 consecutive hours”  
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26 and “Working over 40 hours per week” were independent risk factors associated with  
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28 burnout.<sup>8 24</sup>  
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35 Due to the limitations of the official questionnaire used in this study, we surveyed  
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37 exercise duration per week, general meal times, and average number of times eating  
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39 out per day, without distinguishing between workdays and weekends. Clemens  
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41 Drenowatz, et al. found that weekend behaviors appeared to be of particular  
42  
43 importance, even though overall physical activity levels were similar between  
44  
45 weekdays and the weekend.<sup>35</sup> A possible explanation is the greater freedom of  
46  
47 lifestyle choices during the weekend. Moreover, a nationally representative survey of  
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49 diet among U.S. adults revealed that weekend consumption was associated with  
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51 increased calorie intake and poorer diet quality.<sup>36</sup> The greater prevalence of fast-food  
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53 and full-service restaurant consumption may contribute to poorer diet quality on  
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55 weekends. A possible explanation for this phenomenon is that time away from one’s  
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3 occupation leads to more time spent on food-related activities, and social aspects of  
4 weekends are often paired with eating.<sup>37</sup> Future research should distinguish the  
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6 impact of lifestyle habits on workdays and weekends on burnout.  
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10 In this study, the strongest correlation with WB was lack of sleep, which was  
11 similar to previous studies.<sup>9 25 34</sup> Weishan Chin et al. found that nurses who slept less  
12 than 6 hours during the workweek had a higher risk for WB compared to those who  
13 slept more than 7 hours.<sup>9</sup> In addition, Megan R. Wolf et al. also found that sleeping  
14 less than 7 hours was an independent predictor of burnout among medical students.<sup>34</sup>  
15 Although certain studies have explored the relationship between chronotype/social  
16 jetlag and burnout,<sup>18</sup> no previous studies have directly investigated the association  
17 between weekend catch-up sleep hours and burnout.  
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21 Our results revealed that weekend catch-up sleep was correlated with lower burnout  
22 risk among subjects with a short workday sleep duration (less than 7 hours). This  
23 finding was similar to the results of a previous report by Yun Hwan Oh et al.<sup>15</sup> They  
24 found that among participants with a short workday sleep duration (less than 7 hours),  
25 there was a significant difference in health-related quality of life between those with  
26 and without weekend catch-up sleep. A possible mechanism underlying this effect  
27 could involve the greater sleep debt among participants with short workday sleep  
28 duration. Thus, weekend catch-up sleep could compensate for the sleep debt caused  
29 by insufficient sleep during the workweek.<sup>15</sup> However, it was not possible to establish  
30 a causal relationship between weekend catch-up sleep and WB in this investigation  
31 due to the limitation of the study design.  
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35 Our finding revealed that those with “Workday sleep hours  $\geq$  7 hrs and catch-up  
36 sleep hours > 2 hrs” (> 9 hours in total on weekends) had higher OR for WB (6.74  
37 compared to those with enough sleep). Generally, around 7 to 9 hours is regarded as  
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3 the optimal duration of sleep in terms of psychological well-being and subjectively  
4 perceived health.<sup>38</sup> Although there is no evidence showing correlations between  
5 longer sleep durations and burnout, previous studies have found that long sleep  
6 duration (> 9 hours) was associated with an increased likelihood of depression,  
7 anxiety, and diabetes.<sup>38 39</sup> A potential underlying mechanism may involve increased  
8 levels of inflammation markers in long sleepers.<sup>39</sup> Moreover, weekend catch-up sleep  
9 behavior could be considered a violation of sleep hygiene rules.<sup>15</sup> Nonetheless,  
10 weekend catch-up sleep may reasonably be expected to be associated with better  
11 health outcome in subjects with sleep debt, which was indeed borne out by our  
12 findings.  
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26 Although some studies have investigated the association between combined  
27 unhealthy lifestyle factors and risk of depressive symptoms,<sup>14</sup> no similar studies have  
28 been conducted for burnout. The present report is the first to assess the combined  
29 effect of multiple unhealthy lifestyle factors on burnout level. The impact of lifestyle  
30 factors on burnout may vary from culture to culture, and thus we selected lifestyle  
31 factors based on items in a questionnaire designed to assess overwork which was  
32 developed by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration of Taiwan's the  
33 Ministry of Labor. Finally, only factors that were independently associated with  
34 burnout were included in the calculation of the combined effects.  
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47 Our study has a number of strengths. First, the modifiable risk factors that were  
48 selected in our study were based on items in a questionnaire devised by experts for a  
49 nationally implemented occupational health program. Therefore, these factors were  
50 both culturally representative and suitable indicators for assessing the local medical  
51 workplace. Second, we conducted a stratified analysis of "workday sleep hours" and  
52 "weekend catch-up sleep hours", in order to provide an overall risk assessment of  
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3 weekend catch-up sleep for WB, according to different durations of workday sleep.  
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5 This study also had several limitations. First, the study design was cross-sectional,  
6 and therefore a causal relationship could not be established. However, it was possible  
7 to demonstrate the existence of associations between the modifiable risk factors and  
8 WB. Second, there was no information regarding the number of sleep hours of  
9 workers who self-reported having enough sleep in this questionnaire. Therefore, our  
10 recommendations related to burnout risk for “weekend catch-up sleep hours” and  
11 “workday sleep hours”, can only be applied to staff experiencing a lack of sleep.  
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13 Third, there was no objective way to assess the quality of sleep or to verify the  
14 self-reported sleep duration in this study. In fact, perceived sleep quality may affect  
15 self-reported sleep duration, which should be taken into consideration when  
16 interpreting the results of this study. Fourth, this study is part of program that aims to  
17 identify medical staff at high risk group of experiencing burnout. The results, as well  
18 as findings from physician interviews, will help to inform the development of a  
19 workplace health promotion program. These measures will inevitably take up part of  
20 the weekly working hours and may affect the consistency of the questionnaire.  
21  
22 Furthermore, the data obtained in this study largely comprised self-reported  
23 information, and thus information bias may have existed. However, the analysis of  
24 our questionnaire results were yielded a Cronbach's  $\alpha$  score of 0.866, indicating a high  
25 level of reliability.  
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## 51 CONCLUSION

52 This study found associations between five modifiable risk factors and work-related  
53 burnout in a medical workplace in Taiwan, and further demonstrated that burnout  
54 severity increased in proportion to the number of risk factors. Weekend catch-up sleep  
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3 was correlated with lower burnout risk in participants with a short workday sleep  
4 duration (less than 7 hours), but with higher burnout risk in participants with more  
5 than seven hours' sleep during the workweek. Clinicians should pay particular  
6 attention to people with combined unhealthy lifestyle factors, especially short sleep  
7 duration without weekend catch-up sleep. Serious efforts must be undertaken to  
8 reduce modifiable risk factors in the workplace to promote the health of medical staff,  
9 although further prospective studies are still necessary to establish the causal  
10 relationships between unhealthy lifestyle behaviors and burnout.  
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### 24 **Patient and Public Involvement**

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26 We developed the research questions and outcome measures based on the official  
27 questionnaire released by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration in  
28 Taiwan. The study was approved by the hospital's IRB (CE18353A) and the  
29 requirement for informed consent was waived due to the low risk of the study design.  
30 All voluntary medical staff completing an electronic questionnaire were enrolled in  
31 the study. We will apply the findings of this research to a workplace health promotion  
32 program aimed at improving the health of medical staff.  
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55  
56 **Author Contributions** Y-T T conceived of the study and supervised all aspects of its  
57 implementation. Y-L L completed the analyses and drafted the content. Y-SL and  
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3 S-YH assisted with the study design and revised the content. W-MC, C-HC and Y-CY  
4  
5 assisted with the statistical analysis and revised the content. All authors helped to  
6  
7 conceptualize ideas, interpret findings, and review drafts of the manuscript.  
8  
9

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11  
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13

14 **Competing interests** None.  
15

16 **Patient consent** Not required.  
17

18  
19 **Ethical approval** Institutional Review Board I & II, Taichung Veterans General  
20  
21 Hospital (Case no. CE18353A).  
22

23  
24 **Data availability statement** All data relevant to the study are included in the article.  
25  
26 The data were anonymized prior to analysis to protect the subjects' privacy.  
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## Figure 1

WB risk among participants with different duration of workday sleep and weekend catch-up sleep.

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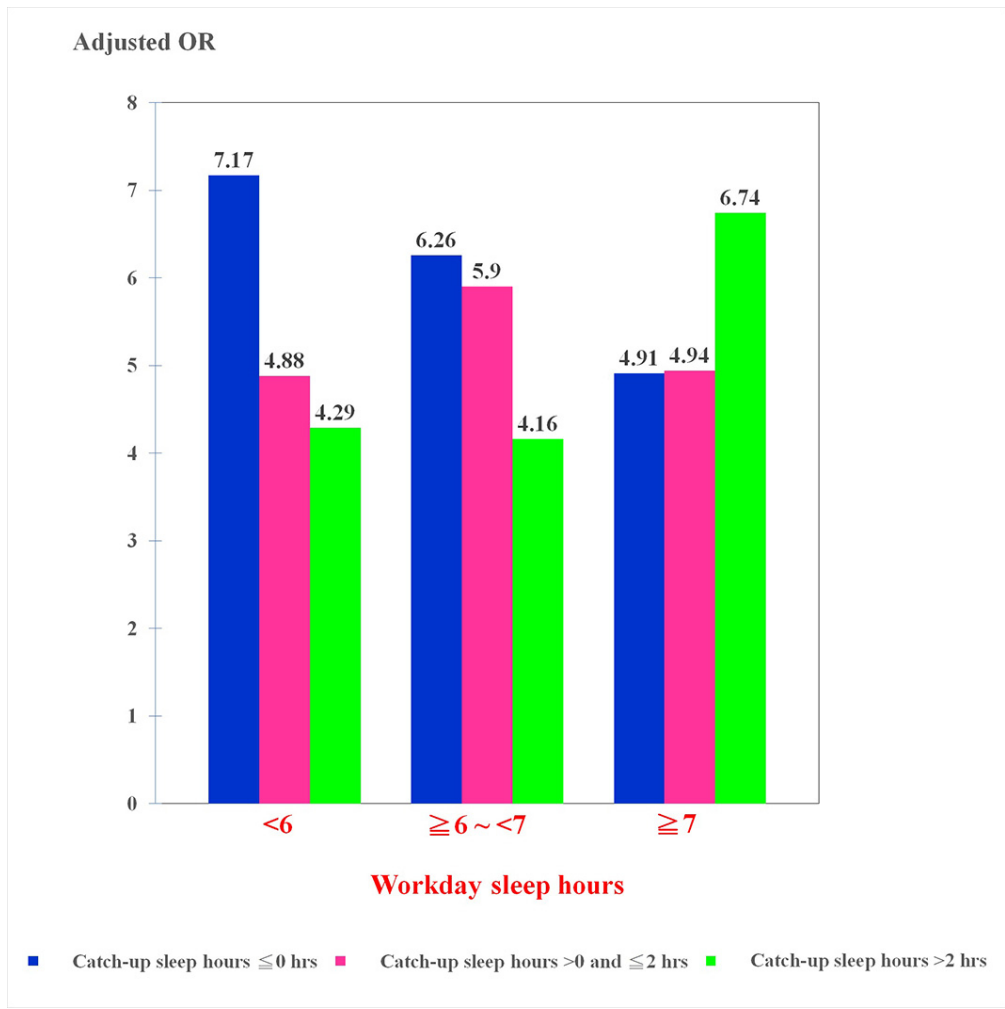


Figure 1: WB risk among participants with different duration of workday sleep and weekend catch-up sleep.

90x90mm (300 x 300 DPI)

# Reporting checklist for cross sectional study.

Based on the STROBE cross sectional guidelines.

## Instructions to authors

Complete this checklist by entering the page numbers from your manuscript where readers will find each of the items listed below.

Your article may not currently address all the items on the checklist. Please modify your text to include the missing information. If you are certain that an item does not apply, please write "n/a" and provide a short explanation.

Upload your completed checklist as an extra file when you submit to a journal.

In your methods section, say that you used the STROBE cross sectional reporting guidelines, and cite them as:

von Elm E, Altman DG, Egger M, Pocock SJ, Gøtzsche PC, Vandenbroucke JP. The Strengthening the Reporting of Observational Studies in Epidemiology (STROBE) Statement: guidelines for reporting observational studies.

		Reporting Item	Page Number
<b>Title and abstract</b>			
Title	<a href="#">#1a</a>	Indicate the study's design with a commonly used term in the title or the abstract	1
Abstract	<a href="#">#1b</a>	Provide in the abstract an informative and balanced summary of what was done and what was found	2
<b>Introduction</b>			
Background / rationale	<a href="#">#2</a>	Explain the scientific background and rationale for the investigation being reported	3
Objectives	<a href="#">#3</a>	State specific objectives, including any prespecified hypotheses	4
<b>Methods</b>			
Study design	<a href="#">#4</a>	Present key elements of study design early in the paper	4
Setting	<a href="#">#5</a>	Describe the setting, locations, and relevant dates, including periods of	5

1		recruitment, exposure, follow-up, and data collection	
2	Eligibility criteria	<a href="#">#6a</a> Give the eligibility criteria, and the sources and methods of selection of	5
3		participants.	
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6		<a href="#">#7</a> Clearly define all outcomes, exposures, predictors, potential	5
7		confounders, and effect modifiers. Give diagnostic criteria, if applicable	
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10	Data sources /	<a href="#">#8</a> For each variable of interest give sources of data and details of methods	5,6
11	measurement	of assessment (measurement). Describe comparability of assessment	
12		methods if there is more than one group. Give information separately	
13		for for exposed and unexposed groups if applicable.	
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17	Bias	<a href="#">#9</a> Describe any efforts to address potential sources of bias	5
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19	Study size	<a href="#">#10</a> Explain how the study size was arrived at	4
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21	Quantitative	<a href="#">#11</a> Explain how quantitative variables were handled in the analyses. If	5
22	variables	applicable, describe which groupings were chosen, and why	
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25	Statistical	<a href="#">#12a</a> Describe all statistical methods, including those used to control for	6
26	methods	confounding	
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29	Statistical	<a href="#">#12b</a> Describe any methods used to examine subgroups and interactions	6
30	methods		
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33	Statistical	<a href="#">#12c</a> Explain how missing data were addressed	6
34	methods		
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36			
37	Statistical	<a href="#">#12d</a> If applicable, describe analytical methods taking account of sampling	6
38	methods	strategy	
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41	Statistical	<a href="#">#12e</a> Describe any sensitivity analyses	6
42	methods		
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44	<b>Results</b>		
45			
46	Participants	<a href="#">#13a</a> Report numbers of individuals at each stage of study—eg numbers	6
47		potentially eligible, examined for eligibility, confirmed eligible,	
48		included in the study, completing follow-up, and analysed. Give	
49		information separately for for exposed and unexposed groups if	
50		applicable.	
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55	Participants	<a href="#">#13b</a> Give reasons for non-participation at each stage	6
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57	Participants	<a href="#">#13c</a> Consider use of a flow diagram	6
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1	Descriptive data	<a href="#">#14a</a>	Give characteristics of study participants (eg demographic, clinical, social) and information on exposures and potential confounders. Give information separately for exposed and unexposed groups if applicable.	6
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6	Descriptive data	<a href="#">#14b</a>	Indicate number of participants with missing data for each variable of interest	6
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10	Outcome data	<a href="#">#15</a>	Report numbers of outcome events or summary measures. Give information separately for exposed and unexposed groups if applicable.	8
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14	Main results	<a href="#">#16a</a>	Give unadjusted estimates and, if applicable, confounder-adjusted estimates and their precision (eg, 95% confidence interval). Make clear which confounders were adjusted for and why they were included	8
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19	Main results	<a href="#">#16b</a>	Report category boundaries when continuous variables were categorized	8~14
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21	Main results	<a href="#">#16c</a>	If relevant, consider translating estimates of relative risk into absolute risk for a meaningful time period	8~14
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25	Other analyses	<a href="#">#17</a>	Report other analyses done—e.g., analyses of subgroups and interactions, and sensitivity analyses	8~14
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28				
29	<b>Discussion</b>			
30				
31	Key results	<a href="#">#18</a>	Summarise key results with reference to study objectives	14
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34	Limitations	<a href="#">#19</a>	Discuss limitations of the study, taking into account sources of potential bias or imprecision. Discuss both direction and magnitude of any potential bias.	17
35				
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39	Interpretation	<a href="#">#20</a>	Give a cautious overall interpretation considering objectives, limitations, multiplicity of analyses, results from similar studies, and other relevant evidence.	15~17
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44	Generalisability	<a href="#">#21</a>	Discuss the generalisability (external validity) of the study results	15~17
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47	<b>Other</b>			
48	<b>Information</b>			
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51	Funding	<a href="#">#22</a>	Give the source of funding and the role of the funders for the present study and, if applicable, for the original study on which the present article is based	18
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# BMJ Open

## Modifiable Risk Factors Related to Burnout Levels in the Medical Workplace in Taiwan: a Cross-sectional Study

Journal:	<i>BMJ Open</i>
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<b>Primary Subject Heading</b>:	Occupational and environmental medicine
Secondary Subject Heading:	Public health, Global health
Keywords:	Work-related burnout, Combined lifestyle factors, Weekend catch-up sleep

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Manuscripts

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3 **Modifiable Risk Factors Related to Burnout Levels in the Medical Workplace in**  
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5 **Taiwan: a Cross-sectional Study**  
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## ABSTRACT

**Objectives:** To detect the combined effects of lifestyle factors on work-related burnout (WB) and to analyze the impact of the number of weekend catch-up sleep hours on burnout risk in a medical workplace.

**Design:** Cross-sectional study.

**Setting:** Hospital-based survey in Taiwan.

**Participants:** In total, 2746 participants completed the hospital's Overload Health Control System questionnaire for the period from the first day of January 2016 through to the end of December 2016, with a response rate of 70.5%. The voluntary participants included 358 physicians, 1406 nurses, 367 medical technicians, and 615 administrative staff.

**Primary and secondary outcome measures:** All factors that correlated significantly with WB were entered into a multinomial logistic regression after adjustment for other factors. The dose-response relationship of combined lifestyle factors and catch-up sleep hours associated with WB was explored by logistic regression.

**Results:** Abnormal meal time (Adjusted OR: 2.41, 95% CI 1.85-3.15), frequently eating out (1.49, 1.12-1.97), lack of sleep (5.13, 3.94-6.69), no exercise (1.41, 1.10-1.81), and work hours >40 (2.72, 2.08-3.57) were independently associated with work-related burnout (for high level compared to low level). As the number of risk factors increased (1 to 5), so did the proportion of high severity of WB (1.39, 0.45-4.27 to 32.98, 10.78-100.87). For those with more than seven hours' sleep on workdays, weekend catch-up sleep ( $\leq 0$ / $>0$  and  $\leq 2$ / $>2$  hours) was found to be related to an increase of burnout risk (4.91, 2.24-10.75/4.94, 2.54-9.63/6.74, 2.94-15.46).

**Conclusions:** WB in the medical workplace was affected by five unhealthy lifestyle

factors, and combinations of these factors were associated with greater severity of WB. Weekend catch-up sleep was correlated with lower burnout risk in those with a short workday sleep duration (less than 7 hours). Clinicians should pay particular attention to medical staff with short sleep duration without weekend catch-up sleep.

**Keywords:** Work-related burnout; Combined lifestyle factors; Weekend catch-up sleep.

### Article Summary

#### Strengths and limitations of this study:

- This is the first study to assess the combined effect of unhealthy lifestyle factors on work-related burnout (WB) and to determine the associations between weekend catch-up sleep and WB in the medical workplace.
- The modifiable risk factors included in our study were identified according to the contents of a questionnaire based on a legally authorized and official program, and were therefore culturally representative of the local medical workplace.
- The study design was cross-sectional, and therefore a causal relationship could not be established.
- The associations between weekend catch-up sleep and work-related burnout could only be applied to staff experiencing a lack of sleep, because there was no information regarding the number of sleep hours in staff who reported having enough sleep.
- Information in this study mainly comprised self-reported measures, and thus information bias may have existed.

### INTRODUCTION

In recent years, the issue of burnout among employees in the medical profession

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2  
3 has received increasing attention, as it can result in a number of deleterious physical,  
4 psychological, and occupational consequences.<sup>1</sup> Previous research has demonstrated  
5 that burnout is an important factor when assessing mental health in the workplace.<sup>2</sup>  
6  
7 Physician burnout is increasingly being recognized as a public health crisis, which is  
8 having a range of negative effects on individual physicians, their patients' care, and  
9 the healthcare system as a whole.<sup>3</sup> Moreover, the prevalence of burnout is greater  
10 among residents and fellows than among early career physicians.<sup>4</sup> A meta-analytic  
11 study revealed that high emotional exhaustion was found in the 31% of the nurses, as  
12 well as high depersonalisation and low personal accomplishment in 24% and 38% of  
13 the subjects, respectively.<sup>5</sup> Compared to other professions (registered nurses, and  
14 respiratory therapists), physicians and nurse practitioners were more likely to report  
15 work-life conflict, irregular work hours, and heavy work pressure.<sup>6</sup> Another study  
16 noted that physician assistants (61.8%) and nurses (66%) had higher prevalence of  
17 high work-related burnout than other medical professions, including physicians  
18 (38.6%), administrative staff (36.1%), and medical technicians (31.9%), in a regional  
19 hospital in Taiwan.<sup>2</sup>

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40 Many previous studies have found that certain non-modifiable factors, such as  
41 gender, age, marriage status, seniority, job category, and shift work, were related to  
42 burnout.<sup>2 7</sup> The authors of the present study believe that modifiable factors are more  
43 important than non-modifiable factors, because the former can be improved through  
44 on-site health services. A few studies have explored modifiable factors related to  
45 workplace burnout, such as higher consumption of fast food, infrequent exercise, long  
46 working hours, and fewer sleep hours.<sup>8-10</sup> However, to date, no research has been  
47 conducted to identify the factors most relevant to burnout, or to assess the combined  
48 effects of these factors.  
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3 Several studies have shown that the total number of health related lifestyle factors  
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5 has a greater impact on health outcomes (including mortality in cancer patients,  
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7 disability-free survival, and depression) than any single lifestyle factor.<sup>11-14</sup> Individual  
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9 lifestyle behaviors have been associated with elevated burnout level, but to the best of  
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11 our knowledge, the association between combined lifestyle behaviors and work-  
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13 related burnout in the medical workplace has not been investigated.  
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17 One method of coping with insufficient sleep during the workweek is to increase  
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19 the sleep duration during the weekend.<sup>15</sup> Previous studies have demonstrated an  
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21 association between weekend catch-up sleep and various health outcomes, including  
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23 obesity, hypertension, and health-related quality of life.<sup>15-17</sup> However, there are  
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25 currently no data in the literature on the association between weekend catch-up sleep  
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27 and work-related burnout among medical staff.  
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31 Thus, the aims of the present study were : (1) to identify modifiable factors  
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33 associated with work-related burnout in the medical workplace, and to assess the  
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35 effects of combined lifestyle factors on WB; (2) to determine the risk of work-related  
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37 burnout based on the number of weekend catch-up sleep hours in patients with  
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39 varying degrees of sleep insufficiency during the workweek.  
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## 45 **METHODS**

### 46 **Participants and study design**

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48 This study was approved by the Institutional Review Board I & II of Taichung  
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50 Veterans General Hospital (Case no. CE18353A). The study design was cross-  
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52 sectional. The subjects were asked to complete an electronic questionnaire on the  
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54 Overload Health Control System of Taichung Veterans General Hospital from the  
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56 first day of January 2016 through the end of December 2016. In total, 2746  
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3 participants completed the questionnaire, with a response rate of 70.5% (2746/3894).  
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5 The voluntary participants included 167 visiting doctors, 191 resident doctors, 1406  
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7 nurses, 367 medical technicians, and 615 administrative staff (including 16  
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9 supervisors). The data were anonymized prior to analysis to protect the subjects'  
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11 privacy. Participation in the study did not involve any health risks and all subjects'  
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13 personal data were secured.  
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### 19 **Factors in the questionnaire**

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21 In Taiwan, the publication "Guideline for Preventing Diseases Caused by  
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23 Exceptional Workload" was released by the Occupational Safety and Health  
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25 Administration of the Ministry of Labor in 2014. According to the guideline, laborers  
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27 must fill out the overwork assessment questionnaire, which contains items related to  
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29 sociodemographics (gender, age, and marital status), working conditions (current  
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31 profession, length of employment, and self-reported type of work), lifestyle factors  
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33 (smoking/alcohol/betel nut use status, sleep condition, meal times, frequency of eating  
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35 out, exercise habits, and self-reported working hours per week). The items in the  
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37 questionnaire were selected by an expert consensus of the Occupational Safety and  
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39 Health Administration of the Ministry of Labor of Taiwan. If participants selected  
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41 "lack of sleep" or "regular physical exercise" in the questionnaire, they were required  
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43 to provide their number of sleep hours on workdays and free days, as well as their  
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45 total duration of weekly exercise. Weekend catch-up sleep hours were calculated  
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47 according to the following formula: Weekend sleep hours minus the workday sleep  
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49 hours.<sup>18</sup> Workday sleep duration was categorized into 3 groups: <6 hours,  $\geq 6$  to <7  
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51 hours,  $\geq 7$  hours. Weekend catch-up sleep duration was categorized into 3 groups:  $\leq 0$   
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53 hours, >0 to  $\leq 2$  hours, >2 hours.  
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## Burnout

The newly developed Copenhagen Burnout Inventory (CBI) by Kristensen et al.<sup>19</sup> is a more straightforward measurement of burnout in medical professionals, as compared to the standard Maslach Burnout Inventory (MBI).<sup>20</sup> The CBI assesses burnout status through the use of three criteria: personal burnout, work-related burnout, and client-related burnout. Additionally, a Chinese version of the Copenhagen Burnout Inventory (C-CBI) was constructed based upon the CBI, which displayed good validity and reliability.<sup>21 22</sup> In this study, we adopted ‘Work-related Burnout (WB)’ subscales of the C-CBI to assess burnout risk in the workplace. The C-CBI ‘work-related burnout’ subscales consist of 7 items.<sup>21</sup> All items used a Likert-type, five-response category scale. The responses were rescaled to a 0–100 metric. According to a previous study,<sup>21</sup> the C-CBI WB had a Cronbach’s  $\alpha$  coefficient of 0.87. For work-related burnout scores, burnout scores of  $\geq 45$  and  $>60$  indicated medium and high burnout, respectively, in the analysis.

## Statistical analysis

Data from the C-CBI WB subscales were analyzed for internal consistency using Cronbach’s  $\alpha$ . The WB score was categorized into three levels: Low, Medium, and High. Demographic information, working conditions, and lifestyle factors were expressed by the category variable and were recorded as numbers (%). Differences in the distribution of categorical variables for WB level were tested using the  $\chi^2$  test. All factors with significant associations with WB were entered into multinomial logistic regression after adjustment for other factors to calculate the odds ratios (ORs) (95% CIs). All calculations were performed using the statistical software program SPSS version 23, with the level of significance set at  $p < 0.05$ . We used the STROBE cross-

sectional checklist when writing this report.<sup>23</sup>

## RESULTS

### Characteristics of the participants

The demographic information, working conditions, and lifestyle factors of the participants are summarized in Table 1. Most participants were female (78.55%), 48.83% were married, and 48.73% were single. More than half of the participants were nurses (51.20%) and on day shift (64.64%). Nearly half of the participants were young (between 21 to 34 years old, 47.34%), and around one third were employed for less than 5 years (34.38%). Most participants denied any smoking/alcohol/betel nut use (98.40%/97.45%/95.41%) and had normal BMI (68.79%). Analysis of employees' lifestyle habits revealed abnormal meal times (55.13%), high eating out rates (93.26% reported eating out for at least one meal per day), lack of sleep (59.07%), non-regular physical exercise (60.74%), and working overtime (>40 hours)(58.56%).

**Table 1. Characteristics of participants (N=2746)**

Factors	N	%	Factors	N	%
<b>Profession</b>			<b>Mealtime</b>		
Doctor (visiting physician)	167	(6.08%)	Normal	1232	(44.87%)
Doctor (resident)	191	(6.96%)	Abnormal	1514	(55.13%)
Nurse	1406	(51.20%)	<b>Eat out</b>		
Medical technician	367	(13.36%)	0 meal	185	(6.74%)
Administrative staff (supervisors)	16	(0.58%)	1 meal	663	(24.14%)
Administrative staff (other)	599	(21.81%)	2 meals	832	(30.30%)
<b>Age (years)</b>			3 meals	1066	(38.82%)
21-34	1300	(47.34%)	<b>Lack of sleep</b>		
35-44	603	(21.96%)	No	1124	(40.93%)
45-54	625	(22.76%)	Yes	1622	(59.07%)
55-66	218	(7.94%)	<b>Workday sleep hours &lt;6 hrs</b>		
<b>Gender</b>			Catch-up sleep hours ≤0 hrs	66	(2.40%)
Male	589	(21.45%)	Catch-up sleep hours >0 and ≤2 hrs	243	(8.85%)
Female	2157	(78.55%)	Catch-up sleep hours >2 hrs	303	(11.03%)
<b>Length of service (years)</b>			<b>Workday sleep hours ≥6 and &lt;7 hrs</b>		
< 5 years	944	(34.38%)	Catch-up sleep hours ≤0 hrs	115	(4.19%)
5-14 years	685	(24.95%)	Catch-up sleep hours >0 and ≤2 hrs	452	(16.46%)

15-24 years	523	(19.05%)	Catch-up sleep hours >2 hrs	211	(7.68%)
>24 years	443	(16.13%)	Workday sleep hours $\geq$ 7 hrs		
Missing	151	(5.50%)	Catch-up sleep hours $\leq$ 0 hrs	62	(2.26%)
<b>Marital status</b>			Catch-up sleep hours >0 and $\leq$ 2 hrs	102	(3.71%)
Single	1338	(48.73%)	Catch up sleep hours >2 hrs	62	(2.26%)
Married	1341	(48.83%)	Missing	6	(0.22%)
Divorced	51	(1.86%)	<b>Physical exercise</b>		
Widowed	16	(0.58%)	None	1668	(60.74%)
<b>BMI</b>			Regular	1078	
$\leq$ 24	1889	(68.79%)	<90 minutes/week	497	(18.10%)
>24	820	(29.86%)	$\geq$ 90 and <150 minutes/week	289	(10.52%)
Missing	37	(1.35%)	$\geq$ 150 minutes/week	281	(10.23%)
<b>Smoking</b>			Missing	11	(0.40%)
No	2702	(98.40%)	<b>Weekly work hours</b>		
Yes	26	(0.95%)	20-40 hours	1131	(41.19%)
Missing	18	(0.66%)	41-60 hours	1379	(50.22%)
<b>Betel Nut Usage</b>			>60 hours	229	(8.34%)
No	2676	(97.45%)	Missing	7	(0.25%)
Yes	2	(0.07%)	<b>Lifestyle factors*</b>		
Missing	68	(2.48%)	None	105	(3.8%)
<b>Alcohol Consumption</b>			One	369	(13.5%)
No	2620	(95.41%)	Two	593	(21.7%)
Yes	126	(4.59%)	Three	736	(26.9%)
<b>Work type</b>			Four	734	(26.8%)
Day shift	1775	(64.64%)	Five	202	(7.4%)
Night shift	184	(6.70%)			
Graveyard shift	139	(5.06%)			
Rotating shift	648	(23.60%)			

\* Lifestyle factors: Abnormal meal times, Frequently eat out, Lack of sleep, No exercise, Weekly work hours>40hours.

## Factors associated with work-related burnout

The reliability of the WB questionnaire was assessed by Cronbach's  $\alpha$  for each item, with a resulting score of 0.866, indicating a high internal consistency.

Table 2 displays the distribution of WB levels according to sociodemographic, working, and lifestyle factors. The percentages of the respondents with a low, medium, or high level of WB were 38.71%, 36.64%, and 24.65%, respectively.

Significantly more women than men (65.6% vs. 45.5%, respectively) had a high

WB score, i.e., medium and high levels of WB. Respondents who were single had higher WB scores than those who were married. The 55-66 years age group accounted for the lowest percentage among respondents with a high level of WB, whereas the 21-34 years age group comprised the highest percentage. Among respondents with a medium or high level of WB, those with 15-24 years of employed service constituted the largest percentage (68.9%). With respect to the types of medical professions, nurses had the highest WB scores, while the administrative supervisors had the lowest scores. The non-day shift workers had higher WB scores compared with the day shift workers. The total number of weekly hours of work was significantly correlated with WB level.

Smokers had lower WB scores than non-smokers, but there were no differences in WB scores between alcohol drinkers and non-drinkers or between betel nut users and non-users. There were no significant correlations between WB levels and BMI status. Abnormal meal times, frequently eating out, lack of sleep, no exercise, and > 40 weekly work hours were positively correlated with WB levels.

**Table 2. Distribution of work-related burnout levels according to sociodemographics, working, and lifestyle factors**

Factors	Work-related burnout						Total (n=2746)		p-value
	Low (n=1063)		Medium (n=1006)		High (n=677)				
<b>Profession</b>									
Doctor (visiting physician)	75	(44.9%)	65	(38.9%)	27	(16.2%)	167	(6.1%)	<0.001* *
Doctor (resident)	77	(40.3%)	65	(34.0%)	49	(25.7%)	191	(7.0%)	
Nurse	350	(24.9%)	568	(40.4%)	488	(34.7%)	1,406	(51.2%)	
Medical technician	165	(45.0%)	140	(38.1%)	62	(16.9%)	367	(13.4%)	
Administrative staff (supervisor)	14	(87.5%)	1	(6.3%)	1	(6.3%)	16	(0.6%)	
Administrative staff (other)	382	(63.8%)	167	(27.9%)	50	(8.3%)	599	(21.8%)	
<b>Age (years)</b>									
21-34	458	(35.2%)	448	(34.5%)	394	(30.3%)	1,300	(47.3%)	<0.001* *
35-44	226	(37.5%)	240	(39.8%)	137	(22.7%)	603	(22.0%)	
45-54	246	(39.4%)	251	(40.2%)	128	(20.5%)	625	(22.8%)	
55-66	133	(61.0%)	67	(30.7%)	18	(8.3%)	218	(7.9%)	
<b>Gender</b>									

Male	321	(54.5%)	181	(30.7%)	87	(14.8%)	589	(21.4%)	<0.001*
Female	742	(34.4%)	825	(38.2%)	590	(27.4%)	2,157	(78.6%)	*
<b>Length of service (years) (n=2,595)</b>									
< 5 years	334	(35.4%)	333	(35.3%)	277	(29.3%)	944	(36.4%)	<0.001*
5-14 years	254	(37.1%)	258	(37.7%)	173	(25.3%)	685	(26.4%)	*
15-24 years	163	(31.2%)	219	(41.9%)	141	(27.0%)	523	(20.2%)	
>24 years	231	(52.1%)	154	(34.8%)	58	(13.1%)	443	(17.1%)	
<b>Marital status</b>									
Single	451	(33.7%)	494	(36.9%)	393	(29.4%)	1338	(48.7%)	<0.001*
Married	581	(43.3%)	489	(36.5%)	271	(20.2%)	1341	(48.8%)	*
Divorced	23	(45.1%)	17	(33.3%)	11	(21.6%)	51	(1.9%)	
Widowed	8	(50.0%)	6	(37.5%)	2	(12.5%)	16	(0.6%)	
<b>Smoking (n=2728)</b>									
No	1038	(38.4%)	991	(36.7%)	673	(24.9%)	2702	(99.0%)	0.014*
Yes	17	(65.4%)	7	(26.9%)	2	(7.7%)	26	(1.0%)	
<b>Betel Nut Usage (n=2678)</b>									
No	1032	(38.6%)	984	(36.8%)	660	(24.7%)	2,676	(99.9%)	0.500
Yes	0	(0.0%)	1	(50.0%)	1	(50.0%)	2	(0.1%)	
<b>Alcohol Consumption</b>									
No	1011	(38.6%)	958	(36.6%)	651	(24.8%)	2620	(95.4%)	0.558
Yes	52	(41.3%)	48	(38.1%)	26	(20.6%)	126	(4.6%)	
<b>Meal time</b>									
Normal	677	(55.0%)	407	(33.0%)	148	(12.0%)	1232	(44.9%)	<0.001*
Abnormal	386	(25.5%)	599	(39.6%)	529	(34.9%)	1514	(55.1%)	*
<b>Eat out</b>									
0-1 meal	415	(48.9%)	304	(35.8%)	129	(15.2%)	848	(30.9%)	<0.001*
2-3 meals	648	(34.1%)	702	(37.0%)	548	(28.9%)	1898	(69.1%)	*
<b>Lack of sleep</b>									
No	677	(60.2%)	329	(29.3%)	118	(10.5%)	1124	(40.9%)	<0.001*
Yes	386	(23.8%)	677	(41.7%)	559	(34.5%)	1622	(59.1%)	*
<b>Physical exercise</b>									
None	562	(33.7%)	633	(37.9%)	473	(28.4%)	1,668	(60.7%)	<0.001*
Regular	501	(46.5%)	373	(34.6%)	204	(18.9%)	1,078	(39.3%)	*
<b>BMI (n=2,709)</b>									
≤24	704	(37.3%)	700	(37.1%)	485	(25.7%)	1,889	(69.7%)	0.052
>24	345	(42.1%)	288	(35.1%)	187	(22.8%)	820	(30.3%)	
<b>Weekly work hours (n=2,739)</b>									
20-40 hours	620	(54.8%)	372	(32.9%)	139	(12.3%)	1,131	(41.3%)	<0.001*
>40 hours	439	(27.3%)	632	(39.3%)	537	(33.4%)	1,608	(58.7%)	*
<b>Work type</b>									
Day shift	802	(45.2%)	636	(35.8%)	337	(19.0%)	1,775	(64.6%)	<0.001*

Non-day shift	261	(26.9%)	370	(38.1%)	340	(35.0%)	971	(35.4%)	*	
<b>Lifestyle factors#</b>										
None	71	(67.6%)	30	(28.6%)	4	(3.8%)	105	(3.8%)	<0.001* *	
One	248	(67.2%)	99	(26.8%)	22	(6.0%)	369	(13.5%)		
Two	321	(54.1%)	197	(33.2%)	75	(12.6%)	593	(21.7%)		
Three	243	(33.0%)	304	(41.3%)	189	(25.7%)	736	(26.9%)		
Four	143	(19.5%)	297	(40.5%)	294	(40.1%)	734	(26.8%)		
Five	33	(16.3%)	77	(38.1%)	92	(45.5%)	202	(7.4%)		
<b>Sleep hours (n=2740)</b>										
No lack of sleep	677	(60.2%)	329	(29.3%)	118	(10.5%)	1124	(41.0%)	<0.001* *	
Lack of sleep										
Workday sleep hours <6 hrs										
Catch-up sleep hours ≤0 hrs	13	(19.7%)	26	(39.4%)	27	(40.9%)	66	(2.4%)		
Catch-up sleep hours >0 and ≤2 hrs	60	(24.7%)	110	(45.3%)	73	(30.0%)	243	(8.9%)		
Catch-up sleep hours >2 hrs	88	(29.0%)	114	(37.6%)	101	(33.3%)	303	(11.1%)		
Workday sleep hours ≥6 and <7 hrs										
Catch-up sleep hours ≤0 hrs	22	(19.1%)	53	(46.1%)	40	(34.8%)	115	(4.2%)		
Catch-up sleep hours >0 and ≤2 hrs	106	(23.5%)	193	(42.7%)	153	(33.8%)	452	(16.5%)		
Catch-up sleep hours >2 hrs	53	(25.1%)	81	(38.4%)	77	(36.5%)	211	(7.7%)		
Workday sleep hours ≥7 hrs										
Catch-up sleep hours ≤0 hrs	12	(19.4%)	24	(38.7%)	26	(41.9%)	62	(2.3%)		
Catch-up sleep hours >0 and ≤2 hrs	18	(17.6%)	51	(50.0%)	33	(32.4%)	102	(3.7%)		
Catch-up sleep hours >2 hrs	10	(16.1%)	24	(38.7%)	28	(45.2%)	62	(2.3%)		
<b>Exercise per week (n=2735)</b>										
No physical exercise	562	(33.7%)	633	(37.9%)	473	(28.4%)	1,668	(61.0%)	<0.001* *	
Regular physical exercise										
<90 minutes/week	224	(45.1%)	195	(39.2%)	78	(15.7%)	497	(18.2%)		
≥90 and <150 minutes/week	133	(46.0%)	86	(29.8%)	70	(24.2%)	289	(10.6%)		
≥150 minutes/week	135	(48.0%)	90	(32.0%)	56	(19.9%)	281	(10.3%)		

Chi-Square test. \*p<0.05, \*\*p<0.01.

# Lifestyle factors: Abnormal meal times, Frequently eat out, Lack of sleep, No exercise, Weekly work hours>40hours.

### Independent factors associated with work-related burnout

As detailed in Table 3, multinomial logistic regression demonstrated that administrative staff had the lowest risk for WB when compared to nurses (Adjusted OR: 0.45/0.33, for medium/high level compared to low level). Women had adjusted

ORs of 1.41/1.59 for WB (Medium/high level compared with low level) when compared with men. The effects of age, length of service, and non-day shift work were non-significant after adjustments.

In terms of lifestyle factors, abnormal meal time (adjusted OR: 1.47/2.41), frequently eating out (adjusted OR: 1.17/1.49), lack of sleep (adjusted OR: 2.86/5.13), no exercise (adjusted OR: 1.27/1.41), and work hours >40 (adjusted OR: 1.56/2.72) were independently associated with work-related burnout (for medium/high level compared to low level).

**Table 3. Multinomial logistic regression of factors associated with work-related burnout.**

Factors	Work-related burnout					
	Medium vs Low			High vs Low		
	OR	95% CI	p value	OR	95% CI	p value
<b>Gender (M vs F)</b>	1.41	(1.08- 1.85)	0.013*	1.59	(1.11- 2.29)	0.012*
<b>Age (years)</b>						
21-34	ref.			ref.		
35-44	1.17	(0.86- 1.59)	0.323	0.82	(0.56- 1.20)	0.301
45-54	1.23	(0.76- 1.98)	0.403	0.74	(0.41- 1.34)	0.322
55-66	1.19	(0.64- 2.19)	0.583	0.62	(0.26- 1.46)	0.275
<b>Length of service (years)</b>						
< 5 years	ref.			ref.		
5-14 years	0.90	(0.68- 1.19)	0.463	0.85	(0.61- 1.18)	0.342
15-24 years	1.21	(0.77- 1.89)	0.404	1.64	(0.95- 2.82)	0.074
>24 years	0.95	(0.56- 1.61)	0.856	1.02	(0.51- 2.02)	0.960
<b>Profession</b>						
Nurse	ref.			ref.		
Doctor (visiting physician)	0.63	(0.39- 1.00)	0.052	0.47	(0.26- 0.87)	0.015*
Doctor (resident)	0.64	(0.40- 1.02)	0.063	0.57	(0.34- 0.97)	0.038*
Medical technician	0.83	(0.60- 1.15)	0.268	0.74	(0.49- 1.11)	0.150
Administrative staff (supervisor)	0.11	(0.01- 0.88)	0.037*	0.45	(0.05- 3.80)	0.462
Administrative staff (other)	0.45	(0.33- 0.61)	<0.001**	0.33	(0.22- 0.50)	<0.001**
<b>Day shift (No vs Yes)</b>	1.04	(0.81- 1.34)	0.753	1.18	(0.88- 1.57)	0.268
<b>Lack of sleep</b>	2.86	(2.33- 3.50)	<0.001**	5.13	(3.94- 6.69)	<0.001**
<b>No physical exercise</b>	1.27	(1.03- 1.55)	0.024*	1.41	(1.10- 1.81)	0.006**
<b>Abnormal meal time</b>	1.47	(1.19- 1.82)	<0.001**	2.41	(1.85- 3.15)	<0.001**
<b>Often eat out</b>	1.17	(0.94- 1.46)	0.152	1.49	(1.12- 1.97)	0.006**

<b>Weekly work hours &gt;40 hours</b>	1.56	(1.26- 1.94)	<0.001**	2.72	(2.08- 3.57)	<0.001**
<b>Lifestyle factors<sup>#</sup></b>						
None	ref.			ref.		
One	0.91	(0.54- 1.52)	0.717	1.39	(0.45- 4.27)	0.564
Two	1.34	(0.82- 2.19)	0.246	3.37	(1.17- 9.72)	0.025*
Three	2.53	(1.55- 4.14)	<0.001**	9.58	(3.36- 27.31)	<0.001**
Four	3.95	(2.37- 6.58)	<0.001**	21.73	(7.58- 62.31)	<0.001**
Five	4.99	(2.64- 9.43)	<0.001**	32.98	(10.78- 100.87)	<0.001**
<i>p</i> for trend			<0.001**			<0.001**

Multinomial logistic regression. \* $p < 0.05$ , \*\* $p < 0.01$ .

\$ Adjusted for Gender, Age, Length of service, Profession, Day shift

# Lifestyle factors: Abnormal meal time, Frequently eat out, Lack of sleep, No exercise, Weekly work hours >40 hours.

## Combined effects of independent lifestyle factors associated with work-related burnout

The combined effect of the five independent factors (abnormal meal times, frequently eating out, lack of sleep, no exercise, and >40 work hours) is displayed in Table 2. As the number of risk factors increases, the proportion of subjects with medium and high levels of WB increases (32.4%, 32.8%, 45.9%, 67.0%, 80.5%, 83.7% for subjects with 0-5 factors, respectively), in a dose-response manner.

Table 3 reveals the results of the analysis of the number of lifestyle factors associated with WB by multinomial logistic regression. The adjusted OR (medium level compared to low level) of the participants with 1 to 5 lifestyle factors were 0.91 (95% CI: 0.54 to 1.52), 1.34 (95% CI: 0.82~2.19), 2.53 (95% CI: 1.55~4.14), 3.95 (95% CI: 2.37~6.58), 4.99 (95% CI: 2.64~9.43), respectively,, compared to those without any factors. The adjusted OR (high level compared to low level) of the participants with 1 to 5 lifestyle factors were 1.39 (95% CI: 0.45 to 4.27), 3.37 (95% CI: 1.17~9.72), 9.58 (95% CI: 3.36~27.31), 21.73 (95% CI: 7.58~62.31), 32.98 (95% CI: 10.78~100.87), compared to those without any factors. There was a significant difference in WB (high level compared to low level) among participants with at least



two factors, when compared to those without any factors.

### Association between weekend catch-up sleep hours and work-related burnout.

The participants who experienced a lack of sleep were categorized into groups based upon their workday sleep hours and weekend catch-up sleep hours. The numbers of each group are shown in Table 1. The distribution of WB levels according to the different groups is shown in Table 2.

In Table 4, the multinomial logistic regression model demonstrates the trends observed in the different groups. In the “workday sleep hours <6 hours” group, those with more weekend catch-up sleep hours had lower WB scores (adjusted OR: 7.17/4.88/ 4.29 for  $\leq 0 / >0$  and  $\leq 2 / >2$  hours, compared to those with enough sleep). In the “workday sleep hours  $\geq 6$  and <7 hours” group, those with more weekend catch-up sleep hours also had lower WB scores (adjusted OR: 6.26/ 5.90/4.16 for  $\leq 0, >0$  and  $\leq 2, >2$  hours, compared to those with enough sleep). However, in the “workday sleep hours  $\geq 7$  hours” group, those with more catch up sleep hours had higher WB scores (adjusted OR: 4.91/4.94/6.74 for  $\leq 0 / >0$  and  $\leq 2 / >2$  hours, compared to those with enough sleep) (Figure 1).

**Table 4. Subgroup analysis: multinomial logistic regression of sleep hours associated with work-related burnout.**

Factors	Multivariate model					
	Medium vs. Low			High vs. Low		
	OR	95% CI	p-value	OR	95% CI	p-value
<b>Workday and weekend catch-up sleep hours<sup>s</sup></b>						
No lack of sleep	ref.			ref.		
Lack of sleep						
Workday sleep hours <6 hrs						
Catch-up sleep hours $\leq 0$ hrs	2.90	(1.38- 6.09)	0.005**	7.17	(3.31- 15.53)	<0.001**
Catch-up sleep hours >0 and $\leq 2$ hrs	3.09	(2.14- 4.47)	<0.001**	4.88	(3.14- 7.61)	<0.001**
Catch-up sleep hours >2 hrs	2.13	(1.52- 2.98)	<0.001**	4.29	(2.89- 6.37)	<0.001**
Workday sleep hours $\geq 6$ and <7 hrs						
Catch-up sleep hours $\leq 0$ hrs	3.74	(2.12- 6.57)	<0.001**	6.26	(3.33- 11.76)	<0.001**

Catch-up sleep hours >0 and $\leq$ 2 hrs	3.38	(2.50- 4.57)	<0.001**	5.90	(4.10- 8.47)	<0.001**
Catch-up sleep hours >2 hrs	2.33	(1.54- 3.51)	<0.001**	4.16	(2.63- 6.60)	<0.001**
Workday sleep hours $\geq$ 7 hrs						
Catch-up sleep hours $\leq$ 0 hrs	2.40	(1.13- 5.08)	0.022*	4.91	(2.24- 10.75)	<0.001**
Catch-up sleep hours >0 and $\leq$ 2 hrs	3.77	(2.10- 6.77)	<0.001**	4.94	(2.54- 9.63)	<0.001**
Catch-up sleep hours >2 hrs	2.98	(1.32- 6.71)	0.008**	6.74	(2.94- 15.46)	<0.001**
<b>Exercise time per week #</b>						
No physical exercise	ref			ref		
Regular physical exercise						
<90 minutes/week	0.96	(0.74- 1.26)	0.786	0.62	(0.44- 0.89)	0.008**
$\geq$ 90 and <150 minutes/week	0.72	(0.52- 1.01)	0.057	0.85	(0.58- 1.25)	0.413
$\geq$ 150 minutes/week	0.75	(0.54- 1.05)	0.092	0.77	(0.51- 1.16)	0.209

Multinomial logistic regression. \* $p$ <0.05, \*\* $p$ <0.01.

\$ Adjusted for gender, age, length of service, profession, day shift, exercise, meal time, frequently eat out, work hours.

# Adjusted for gender, age, length of service, profession, day shift, lack of sleep, mealtime, frequently eat out, work hours.

We also attempted to categorize the participants who had regular physical exercise based on the total weekly exercise hours. The numbers for each subgroup and the distribution of WB levels according to the different subgroups are shown in Tables 1 and 2. However, there was no dose-response relationship between weekly exercise hours and WB levels after adjustment (Table 4).

## DISCUSSION

To our knowledge, this is the first study to assess the combined effect of unhealthy lifestyle factors on WB and to determine the associations between weekend catch-up sleep and WB in the medical workplace. Our findings show that five key modifiable lifestyle factors, including abnormal meal times, often eating out, lack of sleep, no exercise, and >40 weekly work hours, were independently associated with WB levels. The number of these combined unhealthy lifestyle factors was shown to be associated with severity of WB in a dose-dependent manner. As the numbers of the abovementioned lifestyle factors increased, the proportion of respondents with medium or high levels of WB rose. Among these lifestyle factors, a lack of sleep

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3 showed the strongest correlation with WB in the medical workplace. In the subgroup  
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5 analysis of sleep hours, among respondents with duration of workday sleep less than 7  
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7 hours, weekend catch-up sleep was related to reduced burnout risk. However, for  
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9 those with workday sleep hours greater than 7 hours, weekend catch-up sleep was  
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11 related to an elevated risk of workplace burnout.  
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15 For the non-modifiable factors, our findings are consistent with previous studies  
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17 which showed that females gender was independently associated with higher burnout  
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19 levels.<sup>2 24</sup> Our study also confirmed the results of a previous study that showed being  
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21 a nurse was associated with higher burnout levels.<sup>2</sup> However, WB in nurses was not  
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23 significantly different compared with other occupations (except administrative staff)  
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25 after adjustment. In contrast to other previous studies,<sup>2 24 25</sup> length of service and age  
26  
27 were not significant risk factors for WB after adjustment in our study. A possible  
28  
29 explanation for this is that our results were adjusted for additional lifestyle factors,  
30  
31 whereas some previous studies did not control for other variables.<sup>2 24</sup>  
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35 With regard to modifiable factors, our study revealed that obesity was not an  
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37 independent risk factor for WB, as higher BMI was correlated with lower burnout  
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39 scores, which was consistent with previous research.<sup>26</sup> A possible explanation for this  
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41 is that hypercortisolism is commonly associated with increased food intake and body  
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43 weight gain.<sup>27</sup> However, burnout was more consistently associated with  
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45 hypocortisolism,<sup>28</sup> which leads to the inhibition of food consumption. In contrast to  
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47 other studies,<sup>29 30</sup> our results found that smokers had lower WB scores compared to  
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49 non-smokers, while there were no differences in WB scores among alcohol drinkers  
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51 and betel nut users compared with their abstaining counterparts. This may be due to  
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53 the sociocultural characteristics of the study population, in which less than 5% of the  
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55 participants reported smoking, drinking, or using betel nuts.<sup>31 32</sup>  
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3 Our analysis of the five key modifiable factors showed that “normal meal times”  
4 and “infrequent eating out” were significantly associated with a lower risk of WB.  
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6 Although no previous studies have directly investigated the relationship between these  
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8 two factors and burnout, higher levels of fast-food consumption were reported to be  
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10 positively associated with burnout.<sup>10</sup> Moreover, we found that being “physically  
11  
12 active” may protect against burnout, as this variable was associated with a low risk of  
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14 WB, which is consistent with previous studies.<sup>8 10 33 34</sup> Burnout prevalence was lower  
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16 among students who exercised consistently following CDC recommendations,  
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18 compared with those who exercised less.<sup>8 33</sup> Previous studies did not find a dose-  
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20 response relationship for exercise hours, which was similar to our findings.<sup>25</sup>  
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22 Additionally, we found that long work hours were a risk factor for higher WB levels.  
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24 Previous studies also demonstrated that “Working more than 14 consecutive hours”  
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26 and “Working over 40 hours per week” were independent risk factors associated with  
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28 burnout.<sup>8 24</sup>  
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35 Due to the limitations of the official questionnaire used in this study, we surveyed  
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37 exercise duration per week, general meal times, and average number of times eating  
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39 out per day, without distinguishing between workdays and weekends. Clemens  
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41 Drenowatz, et al. found that weekend behaviors appeared to be of particular  
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43 importance, even though overall physical activity levels were similar between  
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45 weekdays and the weekend.<sup>35</sup> A possible explanation is the greater freedom of  
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47 lifestyle choices during the weekend. Moreover, a nationally representative survey of  
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49 diet among U.S. adults revealed that weekend consumption was associated with  
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51 increased calorie intake and poorer diet quality.<sup>36</sup> The greater prevalence of fast-food  
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53 and full-service restaurant consumption may contribute to poorer diet quality on  
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55 weekends. A possible explanation for this phenomenon is that time away from one’s  
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3 occupation leads to more time spent on food-related activities, and social aspects of  
4 weekends are often paired with eating.<sup>37</sup> Future research should distinguish the  
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6 impact of lifestyle habits on workdays and weekends on burnout.  
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10 In this study, the strongest correlation with WB was lack of sleep, which was  
11 similar to previous studies.<sup>9 25 34</sup> Weishan Chin et al. found that nurses who slept less  
12 than 6 hours during the workweek had a higher risk for WB compared to those who  
13 slept more than 7 hours.<sup>9</sup> In addition, Megan R. Wolf et al. also found that sleeping  
14 less than 7 hours was an independent predictor of burnout among medical students.<sup>34</sup>  
15 Although certain studies have explored the relationship between chronotype/social  
16 jetlag and burnout,<sup>18</sup> no previous studies have directly investigated the association  
17 between weekend catch-up sleep hours and burnout.  
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20 Our results revealed that weekend catch-up sleep was correlated with lower burnout  
21 risk among subjects with a short workday sleep duration (less than 7 hours). This  
22 finding was similar to the results of a previous report by Yun Hwan Oh et al.<sup>15</sup> They  
23 found that among participants with a short workday sleep duration (less than 7 hours),  
24 there was a significant difference in health-related quality of life between those with  
25 and without weekend catch-up sleep. A possible mechanism underlying this effect  
26 could involve the greater sleep debt among participants with short workday sleep  
27 duration. Thus, weekend catch-up sleep could compensate for the sleep debt caused  
28 by insufficient sleep during the workweek.<sup>15</sup> However, it was not possible to establish  
29 a causal relationship between weekend catch-up sleep and WB in this investigation  
30 due to the limitation of the study design.  
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33 Our finding revealed that those with “Workday sleep hours  $\geq$  7 hrs and catch-up  
34 sleep hours > 2 hrs” (> 9 hours in total on weekends) had higher OR for WB (6.74  
35 compared to those with enough sleep). Generally, around 7 to 9 hours is regarded as  
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3 the optimal duration of sleep in terms of psychological well-being and subjectively  
4 perceived health.<sup>38</sup> Although there is no evidence showing correlations between  
5 longer sleep durations and burnout, previous studies have found that long sleep  
6 duration (> 9 hours) was associated with an increased likelihood of depression,  
7 anxiety, and diabetes.<sup>38 39</sup> A potential underlying mechanism may involve increased  
8 levels of inflammation markers in long sleepers.<sup>39</sup> Moreover, weekend catch-up sleep  
9 behavior could be considered a violation of sleep hygiene rules.<sup>15</sup> Nonetheless,  
10 weekend catch-up sleep may reasonably be expected to be associated with better  
11 health outcome in subjects with sleep debt, which was indeed borne out by our  
12 findings.  
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26 Although some studies have investigated the association between combined  
27 unhealthy lifestyle factors and risk of depressive symptoms,<sup>14</sup> no similar studies have  
28 been conducted for burnout. The present report is the first to assess the combined  
29 effect of multiple unhealthy lifestyle factors on burnout level. The impact of lifestyle  
30 factors on burnout may vary from culture to culture, and thus we selected lifestyle  
31 factors based on items in a questionnaire designed to assess overwork which was  
32 developed by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration of Taiwan's the  
33 Ministry of Labor. Finally, only factors that were independently associated with  
34 burnout were included in the calculation of the combined effects.  
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47 Our study has a number of strengths. First, the modifiable risk factors that were  
48 selected in our study were based on items in a questionnaire devised by experts for a  
49 nationally implemented occupational health program. Therefore, these factors were  
50 both culturally representative and suitable indicators for assessing the local medical  
51 workplace. Second, we conducted a stratified analysis of "workday sleep hours" and  
52 "weekend catch-up sleep hours", in order to provide an overall risk assessment of  
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3 weekend catch-up sleep for WB, according to different durations of workday sleep.  
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5 This study also had several limitations. First, the study design was cross-sectional,  
6 and therefore a causal relationship could not be established. However, it was possible  
7 to demonstrate the existence of associations between the modifiable risk factors and  
8 WB. Second, there was no information regarding the number of sleep hours of  
9 workers who self-reported having enough sleep in this questionnaire. Therefore, our  
10 recommendations related to burnout risk for “weekend catch-up sleep hours” and  
11 “workday sleep hours”, can only be applied to staff experiencing a lack of sleep.  
12 Third, there was no objective way to assess the quality of sleep or to verify the self-  
13 reported sleep duration in this study. In fact, perceived sleep quality may affect self-  
14 reported sleep duration, which should be taken into consideration when interpreting  
15 the results of this study. Fourth, this study is part of program that aims to identify  
16 medical staff at high risk group of experiencing burnout. The results, as well as  
17 findings from physician interviews, will help to inform the development of a  
18 workplace health promotion program. These measures will inevitably take up part of  
19 the weekly working hours and may affect the consistency of the questionnaire.  
20 Furthermore, the data obtained in this study largely comprised self-reported  
21 information, and thus information bias may have existed. However, the analysis of  
22 our questionnaire results were yielded a Cronbach's  $\alpha$  score of 0.866, indicating a high  
23 level of reliability.  
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## 51 **CONCLUSION**

52 This study found associations between five modifiable risk factors and work-related  
53 burnout in a medical workplace in Taiwan, and further demonstrated that burnout  
54 severity increased in proportion to the number of risk factors. Weekend catch-up sleep  
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3 was correlated with lower burnout risk in participants with a short workday sleep  
4 duration (less than 7 hours), but with higher burnout risk in participants with more  
5 than seven hours' sleep during the workweek. Clinicians should pay particular  
6 attention to people with combined unhealthy lifestyle factors, especially short sleep  
7 duration without weekend catch-up sleep. Serious efforts must be undertaken to  
8 reduce modifiable risk factors in the workplace to promote the health of medical staff,  
9 although further prospective studies are still necessary to establish the causal  
10 relationships between unhealthy lifestyle behaviors and burnout.  
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### 24 **Patient and Public Involvement**

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26 We developed the research questions and outcome measures based on the official  
27 questionnaire released by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration in  
28 Taiwan. The study was approved by the hospital's IRB (CE18353A) and the  
29 requirement for informed consent was waived due to the low risk of the study design.  
30 All voluntary medical staff completing an electronic questionnaire were enrolled in  
31 the study. We will apply the findings of this research to a workplace health promotion  
32 program aimed at improving the health of medical staff.  
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55  
56 **Author Contributions** Y-T T conceived of the study and supervised all aspects of its  
57 implementation. Y-L L completed the analyses and drafted the content. Y-SL and S-  
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3 YH assisted with the study design and revised the content. W-MC, C-HC and Y-CY  
4  
5 assisted with the statistical analysis and revised the content. All authors helped to  
6  
7 conceptualize ideas, interpret findings, and review drafts of the manuscript.  
8  
9

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11  
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13

14 **Competing interests** None.  
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16 **Patient consent** Not required.  
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19 **Ethical approval** Institutional Review Board I & II, Taichung Veterans General  
20  
21 Hospital (Case no. CE18353A).  
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23  
24 **Data availability statement** All data relevant to the study are included in the article.  
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26 The data were anonymized prior to analysis to protect the subjects' privacy.  
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## Figure 1

WB risk among participants with different duration of workday sleep and weekend catch-up sleep.

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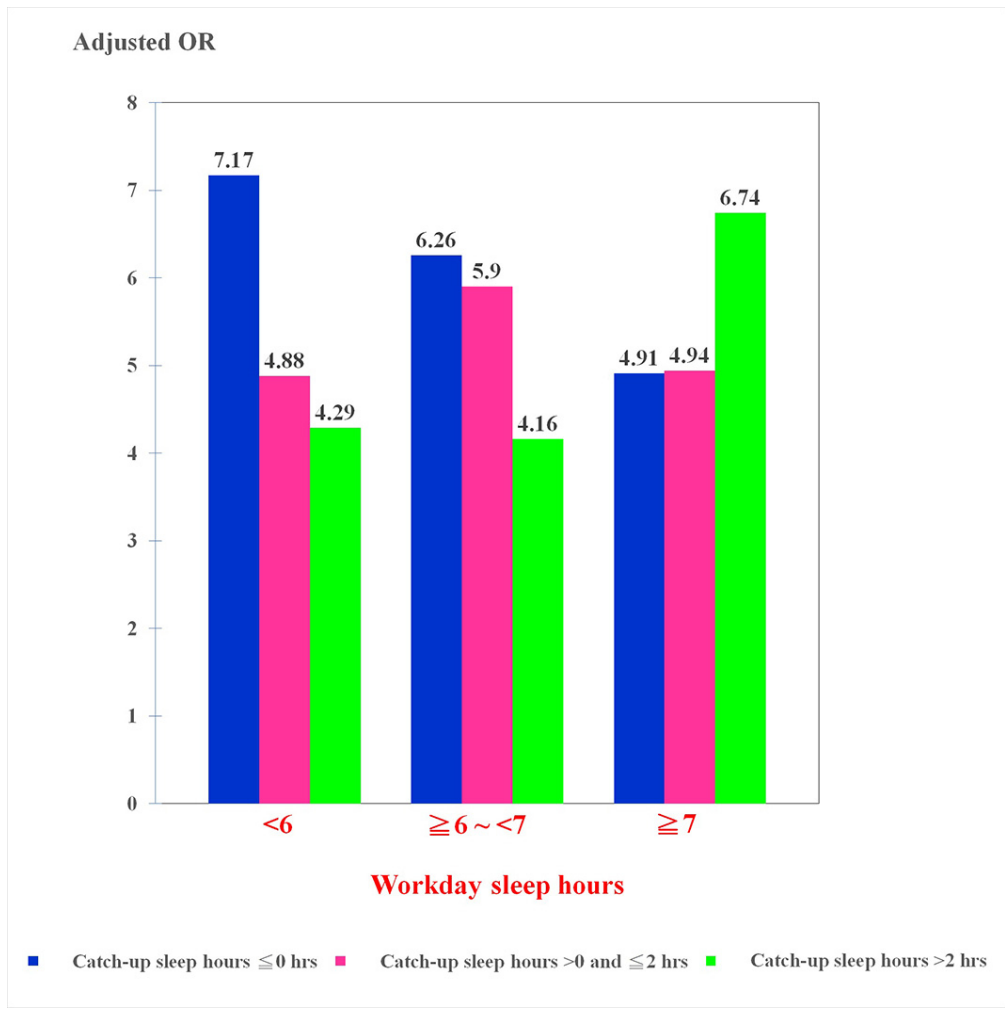


Figure 1: WB risk among participants with different duration of workday sleep and weekend catch-up sleep.

90x90mm (300 x 300 DPI)

# Reporting checklist for cross sectional study.

Based on the STROBE cross sectional guidelines.

## Instructions to authors

Complete this checklist by entering the page numbers from your manuscript where readers will find each of the items listed below.

Your article may not currently address all the items on the checklist. Please modify your text to include the missing information. If you are certain that an item does not apply, please write "n/a" and provide a short explanation.

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In your methods section, say that you used the STROBE cross sectional reporting guidelines, and cite them as:

von Elm E, Altman DG, Egger M, Pocock SJ, Gøtzsche PC, Vandenbroucke JP. The Strengthening the Reporting of Observational Studies in Epidemiology (STROBE) Statement: guidelines for reporting observational studies.

			Page Number
<b>Title and abstract</b>			
Title	<a href="#">#1a</a>	Indicate the study's design with a commonly used term in the title or the abstract	1
Abstract	<a href="#">#1b</a>	Provide in the abstract an informative and balanced summary of what was done and what was found	2
<b>Introduction</b>			
Background / rationale	<a href="#">#2</a>	Explain the scientific background and rationale for the investigation being reported	3
Objectives	<a href="#">#3</a>	State specific objectives, including any prespecified hypotheses	4
<b>Methods</b>			
Study design	<a href="#">#4</a>	Present key elements of study design early in the paper	4
Setting	<a href="#">#5</a>	Describe the setting, locations, and relevant dates, including periods of	5

		recruitment, exposure, follow-up, and data collection	
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2	Eligibility criteria	<a href="#">#6a</a> Give the eligibility criteria, and the sources and methods of selection of	5
3		participants.	
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6		<a href="#">#7</a> Clearly define all outcomes, exposures, predictors, potential	5
7		confounders, and effect modifiers. Give diagnostic criteria, if applicable	
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10	Data sources /	<a href="#">#8</a> For each variable of interest give sources of data and details of methods	5,6
11	measurement	of assessment (measurement). Describe comparability of assessment	
12		methods if there is more than one group. Give information separately	
13		for for exposed and unexposed groups if applicable.	
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17	Bias	<a href="#">#9</a> Describe any efforts to address potential sources of bias	5
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19	Study size	<a href="#">#10</a> Explain how the study size was arrived at	4
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21	Quantitative	<a href="#">#11</a> Explain how quantitative variables were handled in the analyses. If	5
22	variables	applicable, describe which groupings were chosen, and why	
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25	Statistical	<a href="#">#12a</a> Describe all statistical methods, including those used to control for	6
26	methods	confounding	
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29	Statistical	<a href="#">#12b</a> Describe any methods used to examine subgroups and interactions	6
30	methods		
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33	Statistical	<a href="#">#12c</a> Explain how missing data were addressed	6
34	methods		
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37	Statistical	<a href="#">#12d</a> If applicable, describe analytical methods taking account of sampling	6
38	methods	strategy	
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41	Statistical	<a href="#">#12e</a> Describe any sensitivity analyses	6
42	methods		
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45	<b>Results</b>		
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47	Participants	<a href="#">#13a</a> Report numbers of individuals at each stage of study—eg numbers	6
48		potentially eligible, examined for eligibility, confirmed eligible,	
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55	Participants	<a href="#">#13b</a> Give reasons for non-participation at each stage	6
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57	Participants	<a href="#">#13c</a> Consider use of a flow diagram	6
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1	Descriptive data	<a href="#">#14a</a>	Give characteristics of study participants (eg demographic, clinical, social) and information on exposures and potential confounders. Give information separately for exposed and unexposed groups if applicable.	6
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6	Descriptive data	<a href="#">#14b</a>	Indicate number of participants with missing data for each variable of interest	6
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10	Outcome data	<a href="#">#15</a>	Report numbers of outcome events or summary measures. Give information separately for exposed and unexposed groups if applicable.	8
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14	Main results	<a href="#">#16a</a>	Give unadjusted estimates and, if applicable, confounder-adjusted estimates and their precision (eg, 95% confidence interval). Make clear which confounders were adjusted for and why they were included	8
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19	Main results	<a href="#">#16b</a>	Report category boundaries when continuous variables were categorized	8~14
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21	Main results	<a href="#">#16c</a>	If relevant, consider translating estimates of relative risk into absolute risk for a meaningful time period	8~14
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25	Other analyses	<a href="#">#17</a>	Report other analyses done—e.g., analyses of subgroups and interactions, and sensitivity analyses	8~14
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29	<b>Discussion</b>			
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31	Key results	<a href="#">#18</a>	Summarise key results with reference to study objectives	14
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34	Limitations	<a href="#">#19</a>	Discuss limitations of the study, taking into account sources of potential bias or imprecision. Discuss both direction and magnitude of any potential bias.	17
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39	Interpretation	<a href="#">#20</a>	Give a cautious overall interpretation considering objectives, limitations, multiplicity of analyses, results from similar studies, and other relevant evidence.	15~17
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44	Generalisability	<a href="#">#21</a>	Discuss the generalisability (external validity) of the study results	15~17
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47	<b>Other</b>			
48	<b>Information</b>			
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51	Funding	<a href="#">#22</a>	Give the source of funding and the role of the funders for the present study and, if applicable, for the original study on which the present article is based	18
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