Trajectories into Disability Benefits

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Aim

The aim of this study is to examine the associations between mechanical and psychosocial job exposures and trajectories into disability benefits and whether these trajectories are gendered.

Data and methods

This study uses register data of the Norwegian population 2010–2020, consisting of one cohort of all men and women aged 45 in the workforce in 2010. We utilize two recently developed Job Exposure Matrices (JEM), to measure mechanical and psychosocial job exposures. The matrices are based on the Norwegian ISCO-88 occupational codes. Furthermore, we combine the JEMs to measure the degree of double exposure.

We use sequence analysis (SA) to identify clusters of trajectories over a 10 year period, including employment, employment with low income, unemployment, unemployment with benefits, sickness benefits, Work Assessment Allowance, and disability benefits. Subsequently, we analyze the probability of belonging to the clusters using multinominal logistic regression, examining the association between job exposures and the clustered trajectories.

Results

Our preliminary results show that both women and men follow five distinct clusters. For both genders, one of the clusters exhibits gradually more disability benefits over time. The multinominal regressions show an association between the trajectories into DP and higher levels of job exposures for both genders.

Conclusion

The preliminary results shows that higher levels of mechanical and psychosocial job exposures are associated with following trajectories defined by having more sickness absence and becoming disabled. However, there is reason to believe that the associations are weakened by the healthy worker effect, given that the sample consists of individuals aged 45 and older.