

Prevalence of sleep duration among Saudi adults

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ABSTRACT

الأهداف: دراسة الارتباط بين مدة النوم ومجموعة من المتغيرات الديموغرافية والسريية في عينة من البالغين السعوديين.

الطريقة: أجريت دراسة مستعرضة على 2,095 مشارك في مدينة الملك عبدالعزيز الطبية في الرياض، المملكة العربية السعودية خلال الفترة ما بين مايو وأكتوبر 2014م. كما وزع استبيان لجمع البيانات المتعلقة بالنتائج الصحية السريية والخصائص الديموغرافية. وطلب من المشاركين الإبلاغ عن مدة متوسط نومهم كل ليلة في ساعة.

النتائج: أفاد ثلث (33.8%) من المشاركين مدة نوم قصيرة مدة أقل من 7 ساعات / ليلة. كانت مدة النوم القصيرة أكثر انتشاراً لدى الإناث (37.3% مقابل 31.4%, $p=0.004$). وكانت المشاكل الطبية الأكثر شيوعاً التي تم الإبلاغ عنها السمنة مع مؤشر كتلة الجسم >30 كجم / m^2 (39.1%) وارتفاع ضغط الدم (33.9%)، وداء السكري (20.8%)، والاكتئاب (4.3%)، والربو (17.3%)، ومرض الانسداد الرئوي المزمن (6.6%)، والدهون (2.7%). وارتبط السكري مع مدة النوم الطويلة أكثر من 9 ساعات / ليلة (25.4%, $p=0.011$) وارتفاع ضغط الدم (54.2%, $p=0.011$). أظهر النموذج الخطي للانحدار ميلاً إلى قلة مدة النوم لدى الجنس الأنثوي تقريباً 22 دقيقة، 66 دقيقة في المصابين بارتفاع مستوى الكوليسترول، 70 دقيقة في المشاركين مع سوء جودة النوم.

الخلاصة: أظهرت الدراسة انتشار قصر فترة النوم في الليل، كما أنه يؤثر على واحد من كل 3 بالغين سعوديين. وارتبط مدة النوم الطويلة لأكثر من 9 ساعات مع زيادة الظروف المرضية.

Objectives: To examine the associations between sleep duration and a variety of demographic and clinical variables in a sample of Saudi adults.

Methods: A cross-sectional study among 2,095 participants was conducted at King Abdulaziz Medical City, Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, between May and October 2014. A questionnaire

was administered to collect data related to clinical health outcomes and demographic characteristics. Participants were asked to report their average sleep duration per night in hours.

Results: One-third (33.8%) reported short sleep duration of less than 7 hours/night. Short sleep duration was more prevalent in females (37.3% versus 31.4%, $p=0.004$). The most common medical problems reported were obesity with body mass index of >30 Kg/m² (39.1%), hypertension (33.9%), diabetes mellitus (20.8%), depression (4.3%), asthma (17.3%), COPD (6.6%), and hyperlipidemia (2.7%). Diabetes mellitus was associated with long sleep of more than 9 hours/night (25.4%, $p=0.011$) and hypertension (54.2%, $p=0.001$). The linear regression model tend to reduce their sleep duration by roughly 22 minutes in female gender, 66 minutes in participants with hyperlipidemia, and 70 minutes in participants with poor sleep quality.

Conclusions: Short sleep duration per night was prevalent, it affects one in every 3 Saudi adults. Long sleep duration of more than 9 hours was associated with increased comorbid conditions.

*Saudi Med J 2017; Vol. 38 (3): 276-283
doi: 10.15537/smj.2017.3.17101*

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Received 4th October 2016. Accepted 5th December 2017.

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The recommended amount of sleep for healthy adults is between 7-8 hours per night in order to feel rested with optimal sleep quality.¹⁻³ However, sleep deprivation and short sleep duration are very common. In the past decades, accumulating evidence has shown that quantity and duration of sleep are important factors associated with health and mortality.⁴⁻⁸ Irregular or sleep loss may be associated with an increased risk of morbidity and mortality.^{3,7-15} Studies reported that both shortened sleep (<7 hours per night) and long sleep duration (>8 hours per night) are associated with increased mortality and morbidity. According to several epidemiological studies, the risk of all-cause mortality occurs among individuals with long duration of sleep (≥ 8 hours sleep per day) and short durations of sleep (<7 hours sleep per day).^{13,16-22} However, few studies explore factors that predict an individual's sleep duration per day. Furthermore, published studies corroborate that there is an association between sleep deprivation, short sleep duration, the chances of developing obesity,²³⁻²⁶ type 2 diabetes,^{18,27-29} hyperlipidemia,³⁰⁻³² high blood pressure,³³⁻³⁶ motor vehicle accidents,^{37,38} and increased risk of dying of coronary artery disease.³⁹⁻⁴¹ A study investigating the relationship between sleeping hours and adjusted injury risk revealed that the odds ratio (OR) for a worker sleeping a total of <5 hours/day was 2.65, 1.79 for 5-5.9 hours/day, 1.40 for 6-6.9 hours/day and 1.82 for >10 hours of usual daily sleep.³⁷

Another study investigating the relationship between sleeping hours and self-related health (fair/poor) revealed the OR for sleeping a total of <5 hours/day was 2.29, 1.68 for 6 hours/day, 1.38 for 8 hours/day, and 1.98 for >9 hours of usual daily sleep.⁴² Older age, depression, anxiety, night or shift work, heavy smoking, and lower levels of income were associated with short sleep duration, while younger age, underweight, widowed, being divorced, heavy smoking, anxiety, depression, and poorer self-reported health were associated with long sleep duration.⁴³ Studies also reported correlation between low socioeconomic status, depression, and long sleep duration.⁴²⁻⁴⁵ The epidemiological studies on sleep duration and its relation to comorbid conditions among different societies and cultures are limited. There are no studies on sleep duration and its relation to comorbid conditions among Saudi adults. This study proposed to investigate the relationship between several risk factors,

morbidities, and sleep duration per night among the Saudi population. We also intended to develop a model to predict sleep duration, using a variety of demographic and clinical variables.

Methods. A cross-sectional study was conducted at King Abdulaziz Medical City-Riyadh (KAMC-R), Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, between January and July 2014. The study was approved by the King Abdullah International Medical Research Center (KAIMRC) Research Ethics Committee. The study sample was chosen from pre-employment clinics, blood bank donors, visitors to KAMC-R, and employees. We include all adults 18 years old or older who was willing to participate. In order to overcome possible sources of bias in this convenience sample, we excluded individuals with night-shift work, time-zone travel during the last 4 weeks, or use of any sleep medications. Three research assistants distributed the questionnaire after participants' verbal agreement to participate in the study. Of the 2,500 people asked to participate in the study, 2,095 agreed to complete the questionnaire. These 2,095 participants (ages 18-100 years) were recruited from the study population (pre-employment clinics, blood bank donors, visitors to KAMC-R, and employees). The survey was assessed based on a self-administered questionnaire; research assistants reviewed the questionnaires for completeness. We used the validated Arabic version of the Berlin Questionnaire (BQ) to assess the presence of risk of obstructive sleep apnea (OSA) among participants.^{46,47} The BQ consisted of 10 items related to sleep apnea risk that include: snoring behavior, wake time, sleepiness or fatigue, history of obesity or hypertension, and body mass index (BMI).⁴⁷ Participants were classified as having a high risk of OSA if there were 2 or more categories where the score was positive.⁴⁷ We also used the Epworth Sleepiness Scale (ESS) Arabic version to assess excessive daytime sleepiness (EDS).⁴⁸ A score of 11 or more (ESS ≥ 11) is considered EDS. We also used the International Classification of Sleep Disorders-2 (ICSD-2), which defines insomnia as difficulty in falling asleep, waking up too early, frequent awakening with difficulty in falling asleep again, and secondary daytime impairment related to nighttime sleep difficulties.⁴⁹ The sleep quality was assessed using the Pittsburgh Sleep Quality Index (PSQI).⁵⁰ The PSQI version was translated and validated by Suleiman et al.⁵¹ The questionnaire included demographic characteristics such as age, gender, education, self-reported weight, and height. Participants were asked whether they smoked or consumed coffee or tea. The questionnaire included clarification on medical

Disclosure. Authors have no conflict of interests, and the work was not supported or funded by any drug company.

conditions based on history, including asthma, diabetes mellitus (DM), chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), hypertension, and depression. Self-reported sleep duration was collected from each respondent by asking to report the average sleep duration hours of sleep per night. Informed consent was obtained from all individual participants included in the study.

Statistical analysis. Statistical analyses were conducted using IBM SPSS® version 22 (Chicago, Illinois: SPSS Inc, USA). Self-report of sleep duration as measured by average hours of sleep per night was expressed as mean (\pm SD) with 25th and 75th percentiles. Differences in sleep duration across participants' characteristics were tested using independent samples t-tests. Analysis of variance (ANOVA) test was used to test differences in BMI across 3 categories of sleep duration: short sleep (<7 hours), normative (7-9 hours), and long (>9 hours). Chi-square tests were used to examine associations between short/long sleep duration and demographic characteristics. Also, Chi-square tests were used to examine the associations between short/long sleep duration and the presence of comorbid medical conditions. The short sleep duration was based on American Academy of Sleep Medicine (AASM) parameters.³⁰ We used stepwise linear regression to develop a model to predict sleep duration, using a variety of demographic and clinical variables. The following variables were entered in the model: age, gender, obesity, coffee intake, tea intake, smoke status, asthma, diabetes, chronic obstructive pulmonary, hypertension, depression, hyperlipidemia, quality of sleep, high risk of sleep apnea, difficulty falling asleep, frequent awakening, wake up too early, feel tired/fatigued, and change in mood because of sleep issues. We used multiple linear models to compare predictors of sleep duration in 2 predictive models according to age groups (<40 and \geq 40 years). All statistical tests were 2-tailed and the level of significance was set at $p=0.05$.

Results. A total of 2,095 participants were included in the analysis. The age range was 18-100 years, with a mean age of 42.3 ± 15.5 years.

Table 1 shows the sample characteristics. The sample consisted of 59.3% males, 17.1% elderly (>60 years), 72.1% coffee consumers, and 63.6% tea consumers. The most common medical problems reported were obesity (Table 1). On average, participants reported 6.4 ± 1.7 hours sleep per night, 33.8% reported short sleep duration of less than 7 hours per night. As per the PSQI, the majority (78.3%) of the sample reported poor sleep quality. High risk for sleep apnea using the

Table 1 - Sleep duration by the sample characteristics.

Characteristics	Overall n=2095 n (%)	Hours of sleep per night		P-value
		Mean	\pm SD	
<i>Gender</i>				
Female	848 (40.7)	6.4	1.8	0.576
Male	1237 (59.3)	6.5	1.7	
<i>Age</i>				
<60	1693 (82.9)	6.5	1.8	0.407
\geq 60	350 (17.1)	6.4	1.5	
<i>Obesity</i>				
No	994 (60.9)	6.4	1.9	0.013*
Yes	638 (39.1)	6.6	1.6	
<i>Coffee intake</i>				
No	584 (27.9)	6.5	1.8	0.179
Yes	1511 (72.1)	6.4	1.7	
<i>Tea intake</i>				
No	763 (36.4)	6.4	1.8	0.838
Yes	1332 (63.6)	6.4	1.7	
<i>Diabetes mellitus</i>				
No	1659 (79.2)	6.4	1.8	0.003*
Yes	436 (20.8)	6.7	1.7	
<i>Hypertension</i>				
No	1384 (66.1)	6.2	1.7	0.001*
Yes	711 (33.9)	6.9	1.6	
<i>Depression</i>				
No	2004 (95.7)	6.4	1.7	0.589
Yes	91 (4.3)	6.3	2.0	
<i>COPD</i>				
No	1957 (93.4)	6.4	1.8	0.007*
Yes	138 (6.6)	6.7	1.4	
<i>Asthma</i>				
No	1734 (82.8)	6.4	1.7	0.394
Yes	361 (17.2)	6.5	1.9	
<i>Lipedema</i>				
No	1595 (97.3)	6.4	1.8	0.001*
Yes	44 (2.7)	5.5	1.4	
<i>Poor sleep quality</i>				
No	455 (21.7)	7.3	1.6	0.001*
Yes	1640 (78.3)	6.2	1.7	
<i>High risk for sleep apnea</i>				
No	1426 (68.1)	6.3	1.7	0.001*
Yes	669 (31.9)	6.7	1.9	
<i>Difficulty falling asleep</i>				
No	655 (31.3)	6.3	1.8	0.040*
Yes	1440 (68.7)	6.5	1.7	
<i>Frequent awakening</i>				
No	669 (31.9)	6.3	1.8	0.021*
Yes	1426 (68.1)	6.5	1.7	
<i>Wake up too early</i>				
No	550 (26.3)	6.3	2.0	0.048*
Yes	1545 (73.7)	6.5	1.6	
<i>Feel tired</i>				
No	498 (23.8)	6.3	1.8	0.071
Yes	1597 (76.2)	6.5	1.7	
<i>Sleep loss affect your mood</i>				
No	988 (47.2)	6.6	1.6	0.001*
Yes	1107 (52.8)	6.3	1.8	

* Independent samples t-test is significant at $p=0.05$. COPD - chronic obstructive pulmonary disease

BQ was reported in 31.9%. Most participants reported trouble falling asleep, had frequent awakening, waking up too early, and felt tired during the day due to lack of sleep. Table 1 also showed differences in sleep duration across participants' characteristics as tested using independent samples t-test (bivariate analyses). The average sleep duration decreased among participants with poor sleep quality as per PSQI score. Sleep duration was longer among participants who reported: difficulty falling asleep, frequent awakening, waking up too early, obesity, DM, HTN, and COPD. Sleep duration was shorter among participants with sleep loss affecting mood and participants with hyperlipidemia (Table 1).

Table 2 shows the associations between sleep duration and demographic characteristics. The female gender had a higher percentage of short sleep duration than the male gender. The prevalence of short sleep duration was significantly higher among participants who consumed coffee than those who did not consume coffee.

Table 3 illustrates short/long sleep duration and their association with comorbid conditions. Hyperlipidemia was more common in those with short sleep duration. Poor sleep quality was very prevalent in those with short sleep duration. Participants with sleep loss affects mood were significantly more likely to have short sleep duration. Diabetes mellitus was more common in participants with long sleep duration. Participants with hypertension were significantly more likely to have long sleep duration. Participants with high risk of sleep apnea tend to have a long sleep duration. Stepwise analysis (multivariate analysis) was used to

build a multiple linear regression model to explain the variation in sleep duration among participants (Table 4). Controlling for all confounders, the analysis revealed that the sleep duration was predicted by the following characteristics: being female, poor sleep quality, COPD, hyperlipidemia, and HTN ($p < 0.05$). The multiple correlation coefficient of this model was 0.32 with adjusted R square of 10%.

The following is the estimated equation: predicted sleep duration/hours = $7.289 - 0.370 \times \text{female} - 1.178 \times \text{bad sleep quality} + 0.396 \times \text{high risk for sleep apnea} + 0.366 \times \text{hypertension} - 1.097 \text{ lipidemia} + 0.457 \text{ COPD}$. Controlling for the other 3 predictors, this model implies that the female gender, participants with hyperlipidemia, and participants with poor sleep quality tend to experience reduced sleep duration by roughly 22, 66, and 70 minutes, respectively. In contrast, controlling for being female, and having poor sleep quality and hyperlipidemia, the predicted sleep duration tends to increase by 22 in participants with HTN. Also, for participants with COPD the sleep duration was predicted to increase by 27 minutes and high risk of sleep apnea in 23 minutes. In young age group (<40 years), independent predictors for sleep duration were gender, coffee intake, DM, HTN, lipidemia, and bad sleep quality. However, in older age (≥ 40 years), sleep duration was significantly predicted by lipidemia, bad sleep quality, and high risk for sleep apnea. In the first model (young age group <40 years), the predictors explained 13.1% of the variation in sleep duration. The second model (older age group ≥ 40

Table 2 - Sleep duration and its relation to demographic characteristics.

Characteristics	<7 hours n=708		7-9 hours n=868		>9 hours n=519		P-value
BMI (mean±SD)	30.4	11.6	32.4	13.0	33.5	14.1	0.004†
<i>Gender (%)</i>							
Female	316	37.3	467	55.1	65	7.7	0.004*
Male	388	31.4	771	62.4	77	6.2	
<i>Age (%)</i>							
<60	561	33.2	1008	59.6	123	7.3	0.160
≥ 60	125	35.7	209	59.7	16	4.6	
<i>Coffee intake (%)</i>							
No	173	29.7	370	63.5	40	6.9	0.045*
Yes	534	35.3	875	57.9	102	6.8	
<i>Tea intake (%)</i>							
No	248	32.5	466	61.1	49	6.4	0.516
Yes	459	34.5	779	58.5	93	7.0	

*Chi-square t-test is significant at $p=0.05$. †Analysis of Variance test is significant at $p=0.05$.

years), the predictors explained 14.9% of the variation in sleep duration.

Discussion. The current study investigated the associations between short/long sleep duration and the presence of comorbid medical conditions in a sample

of Saudi adults. In addition, this study also analyzed the factors that can be used to explain the variation in duration of sleep. A study conducted in northeast China reported an average sleep duration of 6.9±1.6 hours per night.²⁴ Another study reported an average sleep duration of 6.5±1.7 hours.²⁷ The self-reported

Table 3 - Short/long sleep duration and their association with sleep pattern and comorbid conditions.

Characteristics	<7 hours	7-9 hours	>9 hours	P-value
Diabetes mellitus				0.011*
No	585 (82.7)	967 (77.7)	106 (74.6)	
Yes	122 (17.3)	278 (22.3)	36 (25.4)	
Hypertension				0.001*
No	546 (77.2)	772 (62.0)	65 (45.8)	
Yes	161 (22.8)	473 (38.0)	77 (54.2)	
Depression				0.586
No	674 (95.3)	1195 (96.0)	134 (94.4)	
Yes	33 (4.7)	50 (4.0)	8 (5.6)	
COPD				0.001*
No	681 (96.3)	1141 (91.6)	134 (94.4)	
Yes	26 (3.7)	104 (8.4)	8 (5.6)	
Asthma				0.444
No	588 (83.2)	1033 (83.0)	112 (78.9)	
Yes	119 (16.8)	212 (17.0)	30 (21.1)	
Lipidemia				0.003*
No	535 (95.5)	963 (98.1)	96 (100)	
Yes	25 (4.5)	19 (1.9)	0 (0.0)	
Poor sleep quality				0.001*
No	56 (7.9)	345 (27.7)	54 (38.0)	
Yes	651 (92.1)	900 (72.3)	88 (62.0)	
High risk for sleep apnea				0.001*
No	521 (73.7)	859 (69.0)	46 (32.4)	
Yes	186 (26.3)	386 (31.0)	96 (67.6)	
Difficulty falling asleep				0.003*
No	241 (34.1)	385 (30.9)	28 (19.7)	
Yes	466 (65.9)	860 (69.1)	114 (80.3)	
Frequent awakening				0.015*
No	251 (35.5)	383 (30.8)	35 (24.6)	
Yes	456 (64.5)	862 (69.2)	107 (75.4)	
Wake up too early				0.001*
No	224 (31.7)	288 (23.1)	37 (26.1)	
Yes	483 (68.3)	957 (76.9)	105 (73.9)	
Feel tired				0.074
No	187 (26.4)	284 (22.8)	27 (19.0)	
Yes	520 (73.6)	961 (77.2)	115 (81.0)	
Sleep loss affect your mood				0.001*
No	277 (39.2)	646 (51.9)	65 (45.8)	
Yes	430 (60.8)	599 (48.1)	77 (54.2)	

*Chi-square t-test is significant at p=0.05. COPD - chronic obstructive pulmonary disease

Table 4 - Stepwise analysis: predictors of sleep duration.

Stepwise analysis	B	SE	t	P-value
(Constant)	7.289	0.128	56.902	0.001
Poor sleep quality	-1.178	0.115	-10.272	0.001
Hypertension	0.366	0.112	3.270	0.001
Lipidemia	-1.097	0.277	-3.960	0.001
Female gender	-0.370	0.102	-3.621	0.001
High risk for sleep apnea	0.396	0.110	3.604	0.001
COPD	0.457	0.211	2.160	0.031

Rsquare = 0.104; adjusted R square = 0.10, multiple correlation (R)=0.32. COPD - chronic obstructive pulmonary disease

Table 5 - Predictive models of sleep duration by age groups.

Predictors	Age <40 years		Age ≥40 years	
	B	P-value	B	P-value
(Constant)	7.25	0.000	6.75	0.000
Female gender	-0.37	0.009*	-0.20	0.225
Coffee Intake	0.34	0.017*	-0.32	0.056
Tea Intake	0.00	0.982	0.03	0.843
Obesity	0.09	0.597	-0.02	0.889
DM	0.62	0.020*	-0.04	0.773
Hypertension	0.50	0.005*	0.14	0.370
Depression	0.10	0.715	-0.08	0.792
COPD	0.69	0.094	0.20	0.377
Asthma	0.16	0.390	-0.16	0.311
Lipidemia	-1.14	0.033*	-0.93	0.003*
Bad sleep quality	-1.32	0.001*	-1.05	0.001*
High risk for sleep apnea	0.30	0.083	0.38	0.018*
Difficulty falling asleep	-0.04	0.786	0.15	0.526
Frequent awakening	-0.15	0.355	0.22	0.327
Wake up too early	-0.13	0.352	0.28	0.157
Feel tired	-0.19	0.212	0.30	0.185
Sleep loss affect your mood	0.15	0.332	0.11	0.487

COPD - chronic obstructive pulmonary disease

mean of sleep duration in our sample was found to be 6.4 ± 1.7 hours per night with a 25th percentile of 5 hours, a 75th percentile of 7.5 hours, and a median of 6 hours. Our study reported a high prevalence of short sleep duration <7 hours in one-third (33.8%), which is similar to many other reported studies (24.1%-41.6%).^{28,29} The USA general population reported sleep duration of less than 7 hours in approximately a third of the population.⁴¹ We found no studies on sleep duration among adults in our Saudi population. Most studies regarding sleep habits and duration were conducted among children, adolescents, and medical students. Al-Hazzaa et al²⁶ reported short sleep duration (<7 hours) in approximately 31% of 15 to 19 year-old in Saudi Arabia with no difference in sleep duration between males and females. Recent studies have shown that sleep duration is associated with HTN.¹⁵ The relationship between HTN and sleep duration has also been discussed in our research. Our findings are similar to other studies that found sleep duration is associated with HTN,⁵² obesity,⁵³ hyperlipidemia,³¹ and DM.⁵⁴ We noted that 24.8% of our population reported long sleep hours. This could be due to some other considerations, such as BMI, HTN, and DM, all of which have shown association with long sleep duration. Although our study shows sleep duration was associated with increased BMI (Figure 1), both factors may be related to sleep breathing disorders. Longitudinal studies are needed to investigate the effect of sleep duration on clinical management of diabetes, obesity, and hypertension.

Study limitations. The measurement of sleep duration similar to many other studies relied upon self-report, which may not be accurate,^{55,56} and we did not assess all other confounders such as work or home environments, shift work, sleep patterns in working days and weekends, and cognitive function of participants. Also, chronic disease was based on information provided by the patients and could not be confirmed. Although our sample is large and may present a wide spectrum of the Saudi population, the results cannot be generalized to the entire Saudi population as it merely represents one facility's experience. This is a cross-sectional study, and therefore we examined the correlations, not causations. Possible sources of sampling bias might exist in this convenience sample as visitors to the hospital may have short sleep duration if a close family member is ill. In order to overcome this limitation, we included a relatively large sample size. Despite these limitations, this study represents one of the few explorations into predictive factors for sleep duration in Saudi adults, and considers both the bivariate and multivariate approach in determining important predictors of sleep duration.

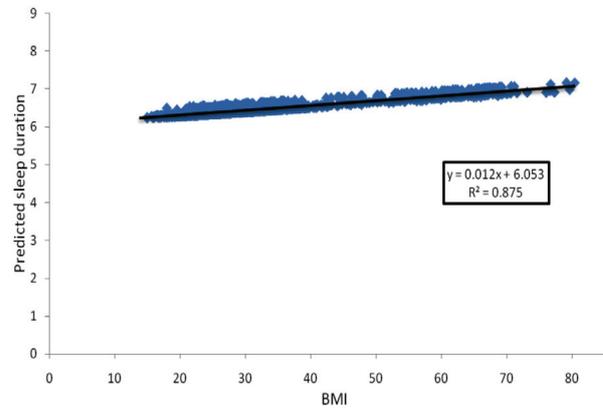


Figure 1 - Relationship between body mass index (BMI) and predicted sleep duration, adjusted for age and gender.

In conclusion, short sleep duration per night is very prevalent and affects one in every 3 Saudi adults. Female gender and bad sleep quality negatively contributed to the sleep duration times in our study population. Further studies are needed to better understand the effects of environmental factors and cultures on sleep duration. This study can contribute further to attempts by medical practitioners to educate their patients on lifestyle factors that could affect sleep health.

Acknowledgment. This study was funded by King Abdullah International Medical Research Center, Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia which provided financial support in the form of study coordinators, data entry support, secretarial support, and other logistics. The sponsor had no role in the design or conduct of this research.

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