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An Updated Review of the Literature: Risk Factors for Bladder Cancer with Focus on Occupational Exposures

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ABSTRACT

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IMAGES

REFERENCES

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Abstract

Workplace exposures account for 5 to 25% of all bladder cancer cases. A critical review of the literature between 1938 and 2004 was performed, with a focus on occupational exposures. Occupational exposure to bladder carcinogens, particularly to β -naphthylamine occur in a number of industries, including aromatic amine manufacture, rubber and cable manufacture, and

dyestuff manufacture and use. Risks to workers in a number of new occupations and industries are reviewed. Nonoccupational risk factors that are known or at one time have been thought to increase the risk of bladder cancer are also discussed.

Key Points

- * Workplace exposures account for 5 to 25% of all bladder cancer cases.

- * The epidemiological research of occupational bladder cancer is complicated by a number of issues, including lack of adequate smoking history, lack of information on other nonoccupational risk factors, and lack of industrial hygiene data.

- * In selected plastics manufacturing sectors, opportunities for potential exposure to establish bladder carcinogens have been described, but details regarding the greatest at-risk worker groups are lacking.

- * With over 800,000 persons employed in plastics materials and miscellaneous plastics products in the United States in 2001, further investigation into the effects of occupational exposure to carcinogens in the plastics industry is warranted.