

Abstracts

smoking indirectly adjusted standardised mortality ratio (SMR) according to the method of 'smoking adjustment factor (SAF)' was presented if the RSE was not statistically significant (i.e., no multiplicative interaction).

Results The RSE for total deaths and the deaths from non-malignant respiratory diseases (NMRD) was 0.75 (95% CI: 0.62–0.91) and 0.59 (95%CI: 0.46–0.78); however, it was not statistically significant for other specific causes of death. Smoking indirectly adjusted SMR for oesophagus cancer, lung cancer, chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases, silicosis, pulmonary tuberculosis and pulmonary heart disease was 1.08 (95% CI: 0.72–1.64), 1.24 (95% CI: 1.06–1.45), 2.07 (95% CI: 1.78–2.41), 411.35 (95% CI: 377.03–448.79), 4.99 (95% CI: 3.80–6.54), and 4.09 (95% CI: 2.55–6.54).

Conclusions This historical cohort study demonstrated a significant multiplicative interaction between smoking and silicosis on the mortality of total deaths and deaths from NMRD; however, smoking was more likely to play a role of confounding in an increased mortality from other major causes among Chinese silicotic workers.

101 OCCUPATIONAL EXPOSURE TO TETRACHLOROETHYLENE AND THE RISK OF BLADDER CANCER: A META-ANALYSIS

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Objectives The risk of bladder cancer in persons occupationally exposed to tetrachloroethylene was summarised using a meta-analysis.

Methods Studies were identified from a Pubmed literature search including the terms "drycleaner, dry-cleaning, occupation, tetrachloroethylene, bladder cancer, bladder carcinoma, urothelial carcinoma" in various combinations. We included studies that reported a risk estimate specifically for tetrachloroethylene or employment as a "dry cleaner" based on historical information indicating that a large percentage of drycleaners were exposed to tetrachloroethylene but not to other occupational bladder carcinogens. We excluded studies that reported results for "dry-cleaners and laundry workers" (the latter group has not been exposed to tetrachloroethylene), PMR analyses (risk estimates are potentially biased), and overlapping publications. Publication bias was assessed using funnel plots. All statistical analyses were performed using STATA.

Results Twelve studies were included in the meta-analysis (8 case-control studies, 4 cohort studies) resulting in a meta-RR of 1.24 (95% CI, 1.12–1.37). The meta-RR was 1.20 (95% CI, 1.07–1.34) for case-control studies (all adjusted for smoking) and 1.44 (95% CI, 1.13–1.84) among the cohort studies (none adjusted for smoking). When we restricted the analysis to the studies reporting a risk estimate specifically for exposure to tetrachloroethylene the meta-RR was 1.18 (95% CI: 1.05–1.33; 3 studies) and for dry cleaners it was 1.46 (95% CI: 1.17–1.83; 9 studies). A jack knife analysis omitting individual studies demonstrated that there was no overreliance of the overall meta-RR on a single study. There was no evidence of publication bias. One of the included studies assessed exposure-response data and

reported an increase in odds ratios with increasing cumulative exposure among men.

Conclusions Occupational exposure to tetrachloroethylene is associated with a moderate, significantly increased risk of bladder cancer. Excesses occurred in cohort and case-control studies. The excesses in case-control studies could not be explained by tobacco use.

102 OCCUPATIONAL ASBESTOS EXPOSURE AND RISK OF PLEURAL MESOTHELIOMA, LUNG AND LARYNGEAL CANCER IN THE PROSPECTIVE NETHERLANDS COHORT STUDY

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Objectives Although asbestos research has been ongoing for decades, there are remaining questions regarding cancer risk associated with low exposure and cancer subtypes, the influence of potential confounders, and the interaction between asbestos and smoking. We addressed these questions by studying the association between occupational asbestos exposure and pleural mesothelioma, lung and laryngeal cancer in the prospective population-based Netherlands Cohort Study (NLCS).

Methods The NLCS includes 58279 men aged 55–69 years at enrollment in 1986. Based on job history information obtained from a self-administered questionnaire, asbestos exposure was estimated by linkage to job-exposure matrices. After 17.3 years of follow-up, 132 cases of pleural mesothelioma, 2324 cases of lung cancer, and 166 cases of laryngeal cancer were available for analysis.

Results Overall, occupational asbestos exposure was associated with an increased risk of mesothelioma, lung and laryngeal cancer, also for relatively low exposure. Correcting for potential confounders as age, smoking, alcohol, and several occupational carcinogens hardly influenced these results. Associations with lung cancer subtypes were generally comparable to overall lung cancer, except for adenocarcinoma (HR ever versus never exposed = 1.43, 1.52, 1.49 and 0.94 for small cell, large cell, squamous cell and adenocarcinoma respectively). Adenocarcinoma showed only a weak positive association at higher exposure levels for long duration. For laryngeal cancer, associations were usually stronger for supraglottis cancer (HR = 2.48, 95% CI:1.33–4.65) than glottis cancer (HR = 1.12, 95% CI:0.74–1.69). There was no statistically significant additive or multiplicative interaction between asbestos and smoking for any of the cancers.

Conclusions The well-established associations between asbestos and mesothelioma, lung and laryngeal cancer were corroborated at relatively low levels of cumulative exposure in the NLCS. Lung adenocarcinoma may only show an increased relative risk at higher asbestos exposure for long duration. Asbestos exposure may be stronger associated with supraglottis cancer than glottis cancer.

103 INTERACTIONS BETWEEN OCCUPATIONAL EXPOSURES TO EXTREMELY LOW FREQUENCY MAGNETIC FIELD AND CHEMICALS FOR BRAIN TUMOUR RISK IN THE INTEROCC STUDY



101 Occupational exposure to tetrachloroethylene and the risk of bladder cancer: A meta-analysis

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