



EUROPEAN RESPIRATORY *journal*

FLAGSHIP SCIENTIFIC JOURNAL OF ERS



Asthma history, job type, and job changes among U.S. nurses

Orianne Dumas, Raphaëlle Varraso, Jan-Paul Zock, Paul K. Henneberger, Frank E. Speizer, Aleta S. Wiley, Nicole Le Moual, Carlos A. Camargo Jr

European Respiratory Journal 2014 44: 410; DOI:

Article

Info & Metrics

Abstract

Nurses are at risk of occupational asthma, an observation that may be related to exposure to disinfectants. Whether asthma history influences job type or job changes among nurses is unknown. We investigated this issue in a sample of 114,778 women in the Nurses' Health Study II, a prospective study of U.S. female nurses enrolled in 1989 (ages 24-44 years). Data on job status were collected at baseline and in follow-up questionnaires (1993-2011). Asthma history before baseline was assessed during follow-up and in an asthma-specific questionnaire in 1998. Associations between asthma history at baseline (diagnosis before 1989) and job type at baseline, and job changes over 1989-2011, were evaluated by multinomial logistic regression and Cox models, adjusted for age, race and ethnicity. At baseline, 44% of the women held nursing jobs likely to involve high disinfectants exposure (nursing in operating room [OR], emergency room [ER] or inpatient unit), while 12% held jobs with likely low exposure (nursing education/administration). Asthma history at baseline was reported by 5,739 women (5%). Compared to education/administration nurses, women with asthma history were less often employed in OR (odds ratio: 0.71 [95% CI, 0.61-0.82]) and in ER or inpatient units (0.88 [0.81-0.96]). During follow-up, nurses with asthma history were more likely to move to jobs with low exposure to disinfectants (hazard ratio: 1.14 [1.09-1.20]). Asthma history is associated with both baseline job type and subsequent job changes among nurses. This may partly reflect avoidance of tasks involving disinfectant use, and may introduce bias in cross-sectional studies on disinfectant use and asthma in nurses.

THANK YOU FOR ACCEPTING COOKIES
You can now hide this message or find out more about cookies.

Grants: R01 OH-10359; FRM SPE20130326585; ERSR.

More info

© 2014 ERS

 [Previous](#)

 [Back to top](#)

Vol 44 Issue Suppl 58 [Table of Contents](#)

[Table of Contents](#)

[Index by author](#)

 [Email](#)

 [Alerts](#)

 [Citation Tools](#)

 [Request Permissions](#)

 [Share](#)

Jump To

 [Article](#)

 [Info & Metrics](#)

THANK YOU FOR ACCEPTING COOKIES

You can now hide this message or find out more about cookies.

[Hide](#)

[More info](#)



MEMBER

JOIN US

FIND *your place*
IN THE ERS
network GET
the most
FROM YOUR
membership

every breath counts

Tweet

Like 0

 More in this TOC Section

 Related Articles

No related articles found.

[Google Scholar](#)

THANK YOU FOR ACCEPTING COOKIES

Navigate

You can now hide this message or find out more about cookies.

[Home](#)

[Current issue](#)

[Hide](#)

[More info](#)