

Oral presentation

Objectives To report updated results on long-term nightshift work and breast cancer risk in Hong Kong women.

Method This ongoing case-control study involves three hospitals in Hong Kong. By 31/03/2013, we've consecutively recruited 443 newly diagnosed breast cancer cases and 335 age-matched controls from the hospital that the cases came from, with a response rate of 90%. We expect to collect 1000 cases and 1000 controls by 31/12/2013. We obtained each participant's lifetime occupational history and shift work, exposure to light-at-night and other important risk factors including family cancer history. We performed unconditional logistic regression analyses to calculate odds ratio (OR) after adjusting for potential confounders.

Results The age at diagnosis (interview) between cases and controls is comparable (55.1 ± 11.9 vs. 54.2 ± 14.6 years). More cases than controls were non-parity and non-breast feeding, but gave first birth slightly late. A significantly elevated (adjusted OR=1.90, 95% CI: 1.24–2.89) breast cancer risk was observed in never employed women. Among those ever employed, 19.8% of breast cancers had ever worked at nightshift at least once per month for ≥ 1 year and it was 21.7% for the controls. Further analyses revealed that nightshift work for ≥ 15 years resulted in an adjusted OR of 1.55 (95% CI: 0.76–3.14) but power is limited. There is no excess breast cancer risk for women with nightshift work for < 15 years.

Conclusions This ongoing study provides supportive evidence on a positive association between long-term nightshift work and breast cancer risk. [Research Grants Council (Project no.: 474811) and Direct Grant (Project no.: 2041788), shelly@cuhk.edu.hk].

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EXAMINING MULTIPLE EXPOSURE PATHWAYS OF BERYLLIUM USING MIXED AND STRUCTURAL EQUATION MODING TECHNIQUES

¹Jenna Armstrong, ¹Abbas Virji, ²Mary Davis, ¹Gregory Day, ¹Aleksandr Stepaniak, ¹Marcia Stanton, ³David Deubner, ¹Christine Schuler. ¹National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health, Morgantown, WV, USA; ²Tufts University, Boston, MA, USA; ³Materion Brush, Inc., Elmore, OH, USA

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Objectives Inhalation beryllium exposures are associated with sensitisation, however dermal exposures are also important. In a previous study, we identified strong correlations between dermal-air, dermal-surface, and air-surface measurements. The aim of this study was to investigate workplace factors associated with exposures using mixed-effects models and structural equation modelling (SEM).

Method Beryllium was measured in personal air, on gloves, and on surfaces at three manufacturing facilities. Predictor variables included substance and activity emission potential (REACH classification), dilution, segregation, PPE, personal behaviour, and work shift.

Results The mixed model described 57 and 59% of total variance for air and dermal, respectively. The total variance explained by the SEM model for air and dermal was 0.51 and 0.48% respectively. In both models activity and substance emission potential, surface contamination, dilution, and personal behaviour were significant predictors of air concentrations ($p \leq 0.05$); and surface contamination and air concentrations were significant predictors of dermal loading on cotton gloves ($p \leq 0.05$). However, work shift and personal behaviour were predictive of dermal loading in the SEM ($p \leq 0.03$), but not in the mixed model. In addition, the SEM reported a parameter

estimate for air concentration as a predictor of dermal loading that was an order of magnitude higher than in the mixed model.

Conclusions Although SEM requires relatively large sample sizes, it is useful for modelling multiple, correlated dependent variables. In addition, full-information maximum likelihood (FIML) methods can be used in SEM to include missing predictor variable data. Although we found both models to be useful, SEM has the potential to illustrate indirect pathways of outcome variables.

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PREGNANCY OUTCOMES FOR WOMEN EMPLOYED AS HAIRDRESSERS, COSMETOLOGISTS AND LABORATORY WORKERS-SYSTEMATIC REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE AND DATA- ANALYSIS OF FINNISH MATERNITY BIRTH REGISTRY

Jacqueline Halliday-Bell. Institute of Occupational and Environmental Medicine, Birmingham, UK

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Objectives This study examines pregnancy outcomes in Finland: gender differentiation, low birth weight, high birth weight, pre-term delivery and post-term delivery, small-for-gestational-age, large-for-gestational-age, stillbirth and early neonatal death for study occupations compared to controls

Method Among 507 659 prima gravida women were 12 854 hairdressers, 1841 cosmetologists and 3587 laboratory workers. The control populations consisted of 40 405 teachers, 1968 musicians and 447 004 women from the general population.

Adjusted odds ratios (aOR) were calculated using binomial logistic regression analysis. Adjustments made: maternal age, smoking habit, marital status, socioeconomic status.

Results aOR for male births was lower for hairdressers than teachers 0.92 (95% CI 0.87–0.98). aOR for post-term delivery was greater for cosmetologists compared to teachers, 2.13 (95% CI 1.04–4.35).

Crude odds ratios (ORs) were also statistically significant Cosmetologists compared to musicians for ratio of male/female births, OR 1.04 (95% CI 1.00–1.08). Hairdressers compared to the general public: small for gestational age, OR 1.01 (95% CI 1.00–1.02), large for gestational age, OR 1.02 (95% CI 1.00–1.03) and post term delivery OR 1.06 (95% CI 1.02–1.11).

The statistically significant results for pooled effect size (ES) from the meta-analysis: low birth weight in hairdressers, ES 1.1 (95% CI 1.01–1.20) and small-for-gestational-age infants among hairdressers ES 1.18 (95% CI 1.08–1.30).

The pooled effect size for large for gestational age infants among hairdressers was statistically significantly reduced for LGA infants among hairdressers, ES 0.71 (95% CI 0.55–0.91).

Conclusions Hairdressers, increased risk of certain pregnancy outcomes. Policy recommendations to improve protection for pregnant workers have been made.

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NERVOUS SYSTEM DISEASE AMONG KOREAN WORKERS EXPOSED TO MANGANESE

Yeon-Soon Ahn. Dongguk University Ilsan Hospital, Goyang, Republic of Korea

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Objectives Exposure to excess levels of manganese in occupational settings has been associated with a neurological syndrome. So morbidity of nervous system disease among Korean workers exposed to manganese described through this large cohort study.