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- 2 Soter NA, Wasserman SI, Austen KF. Cold urticaria: release into the circulation of histamine and eosinophil chemotactic factor of anaphylaxis during cold challenge. *N Engl J Med* 1976;294:687-90.
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clearly higher relative risk for adenocarcinoma than for squamous cell carcinoma.¹⁹

Previous studies overall, therefore, do not support the finding in our study of a higher risk of adenocarcinoma than of other types of lung cancer after asbestos exposure. To date, our study remains the only cohort study on this issue.

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could be limited to specific working groups, not including farmers. The low prevalence of nickel reactions in our subjects was therefore expected. Higher prevalence in printing press workers was likely to be due to a higher percentage of women in that group. We did not find positive reactions to benomyl, a pesticide that is known to cause contact dermatitis,^{14 15} but is not widely sold in Taiwan.

The subjects in this study were selected from the Fruit Farmers' Production Association, members of which were interested in promoting the production and sales of their fruits. It is possible that they represented a group of farmers who were more careful about the use of pesticides than the general population. Therefore, we might be biased towards having a group of farmers who were less exposed and less affected by the pesticides than the general population of fruit farmers in southern Taiwan.

We conclude that fruit farmers in southern Taiwan were exposed to pesticides during their work from heavy use and less than optimal protection. Contact dermatitis and fungal infection were seen in some farmers, and pigmentation and thickening of the skin were prevalent. Farmers were more likely than printing press workers to have skin sensitivity to agricultural chemicals, and this allergy was associated with clinical findings of dermatitis.

This investigation was supported by grant No DOH 84-HR-213 from the Department of Health, Taiwan, Republic of China.

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