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Correlations


Page 266 column 2 line 4 should read: 1 μg, not <1 μg. Also in table 2 for oesophagus <1970, the expected number should be 0.20, not 2.20.

BOOK REVIEWS


This book represents a collection of reviews written by the participants in a workshop on the mechanisms of fibre carcinogenesis, held at the IARC in Lyon on 9–11 January, 1996. The goals of the workshop were twofold; to review and discuss the current knowledge on the mechanisms of fibre carcinogenesis, and to use this knowledge in the assessment of carcinogenic risks to humans or animals.

The primary outcome of the workshop was the consensus report, which is presented in the first part of the book, and was agreed by all the workshop participants. This report brings to light a surprising number of weaknesses and data gaps in the available literature on fibre characterisation, genotoxicity, cell proliferation or activation, and animal studies. A prime example of such shortcomings is the general lack of information on the characterisation of fibre dosages, that is, fibres, numbers, dimensions, surface area, chemistry, durability, and biopersistence—for most in vitro and in vivo studies. The report also discusses the relevance of mechanistic data from in vitro and in vivo assays for the evaluation of carcinogenic risk to humans and concludes with several recommended experimental studies which would provide additional data for the future assessment of fibre carcinogenicity.

The remainder of the book focuses on various aspects of mineral fibre carcinogenicity which were outlined in the consensus report, and such reviews express the opinions of their authors. Briefly, the paper by Kane provides a good discussion of the proposed five mechanistic hypotheses for fibre carcinogenesis. Fubini follows up on these hypotheses by examining the interactions between fibres and cells through the analysis of fibre parameters such as crystallinity, micromorphology, elemental analysis, solubility, and adsorption, which are often not considered by most investigators. The report by Jaurand provides cautious consideration to the limitations and feasibility of mutation and cell transformation assays for investigating the mechanistic effects of fibres. Topics presented by Donaldson describe the role of reactive oxygen species, cytokines, and growth factors in preneoplastic and fibrotic changes. The advantages and disadvantages of this and intratracheal injection are reviewed by Oberdörster. The final review, by Davis, discusses the interactions of inhaled particulate matter along with fibres and the potential effects of mixed doses on fibre pathogenicity.

Overall this book is a collection of concise and up to date reviews on the subject of fibre (mainly asbestos) carcinogenicity. It is generally readable, clear, and informative. Its comprehensive tables and references provides a very good introduction for newcomers to the subject, as well as being an excellent resource for examination candidates. Unfortunately, the most appropriate readers (students) will be unable to afford its high price. The sections in the reviews on recommended experimental studies and unanswered questions are worthwhile to the professional audience. These sections state clearly the directions that research should take to close gaps in data and strengthen current information. There are several similar books on the market today which deal with the health effects and regulations of mineral dusts, the book which will be of interest to those investigators who work predominately with asbestos fibres.

KELLY ANN BÉRÈBÉ

Immunopathology of Lung Disease

This is the first comprehensive text book on the immune responses of the lung. Immunopathology of the Lung and Upper Respiratory Tract, edited by John Bien- estode, was published in 1984. The book