Conclusions This study identified increased risks of rectal, kidney, prostate, and esophageal cancers among male mining industry workers employed in specific sectors. There are also a number of limitations and challenges that accompany the investigation. Our findings may have important implications for our understanding of occupational cancer risk factors and potential policy interventions in the mining industry.

Objectives Stroke is the third most common cause of death in developed countries, exceeded only by coronary heart disease and cancer, but there is still little knowledge on occupational risk factors. A systematic critical review was performed to assess the strength of evidence for causal associations between work-related psychosocial risk factors, shift work and stroke.

Method Literature on stroke incidence or mortality and occupational factors published up to 2012 was identified from Medline and other relevant databases. The 4 471 abstracts were evaluated independently by two reviewers. Six studies relevant to shift work and eight studies (among them four cohorts from Scandinavia) exploring job strain, job control or other job related “stress” exposures were identified. The evidence for an association was assessed according to defined criteria as strong, moderate, limited, or insufficient.

Results There is limited evidence for an association between shift work and stroke, mainly based on results from two occupational cohorts. There is also limited evidence for high job strain or low job control from cohort studies. Case- crossover studies, which would better reflect short-term effects, were lacking, and the only case-referent study found was very small.

Conclusions There is now fairly solid evidence that shift work and work-related psychosocial stress are risk factors for coronary heart disease; a fact that supports an association also with stroke, another cardiovascular disease. However, the epidemiological evidence for stroke is limited, with few studies, and very limited exposure information. Better study designs are needed to elucidate accumulated as well as triggering/short time effects.

Objectives Mining workers in Canada may be exposed to several potential carcinogens including crystalline silica, various metals, and diesel exhaust. This study aimed to assess the risk of cancer among male mining workers employed in various Canadian mining sectors.

Method The Cohort was created by Statistics Canada through the linkage of the 1991 Canadian Census (long form) to the Canadian Mortality Database, Cancer Care Ontario, and annual Tax Summary Files (1991–2006). This linkage resulted in a cohort of 1.1 million working males aged 25–74, including over 14 000 workers employed in the mining industry. Cox proportional hazards modelling was used to estimate hazard ratios (HR) and corresponding 95% confidence intervals, adjusted for age and region.

Results There were 700 cancers among 660 mining industry workers. There was an increased risk for rectal cancer (HR: 1.37, 1.01–1.88), particularly in gold mining (HR: 3.11, 1.47–6.56). Increased risks of kidney and prostate cancer were observed for coal mining (HR: 2.71, 1.12–6.57 and HR: 1.80, 1.10–2.94, respectively), and esophageal cancer in metal mining other than gold or iron (HR: 2.78, 1.13–6.80). There were also elevated risks for stomach and laryngeal cancer among mining workers.

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