

baseline. Increases in SHS-related PM_{2.5} exposures were associated with significant ($p < 0.01$) increases in next morning CRP, s-ICAM, and s-VCAM levels.

Conclusions Our results indicate that exposure to SHS can lead to a cardiovascular inflammatory response approximately 18 h following SHS exposures, further supporting a pathway between SHS exposure and adverse cardiovascular outcomes.

0235 BARRIERS AND FACILITATORS OF SUPPLYING A TREADMILL WORKSTATION TO OFFICE WORKERS: USABILITY, SAFETY, COMFORT, AND PRODUCTIVITY. A QUALITATIVE STUDY

Manuel Cifuentes, Jin Qin, Scott Fulmer, Anila Bello. *Work Environment Department, University of Massachusetts Lowell, MA, USA*

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Objectives Characterise usability, safety, comfort, and impact on productivity of treadmill workstations in real worksites.

Method Office workers volunteered to try out for six months a treadmill workstation consisting of a height adjustable electric desk, a walking treadmill, and their own sitting device (chair or "sitting ball"). They were instructed to set up and use the workstation at will. Monthly individual and group meetings were performed to gather qualitative data.

Results **USABILITY:** Difficult set up of the workstation, which demanded use of wireless mouse and keyboards and generated creative arrangements. Unanimous love for the adjustable electric desk. Difficult to talk to people while walking (disrespectful, "On the treadmill we are taller" - affect hierarchies). **SAFETY:** There was no event of either trips or falls. **COMFORT:** An important difficulty was during the first weeks to get used to longer time in standing position. In average it took two weeks for discomfort symptoms in foot and knees to recede. **PRODUCTIVITY:** faster speed implies faster impact on productivity. 7–8 mph was the most used and comfortable speed. Walking on the treadmill was not compatible with drawing or working with spreadsheets.

Conclusions Treadmill workstation did not meet workers' expectations but the electric adjustable desk exceeded those expectations. Guiding and external motivation to increase use would be accepted and expected. **DESIGN RECOMMENDATIONS:** Reduce maximum speed. Even 2.0 mph is too much. Additional design study needed to improve global workstation setup without decreasing flexibility and adaptation of the station.

0239 INDUCIBLE NITRIC OXIDE SYNTHASE GENE METHYLATION AND PARKINSONISM IN MANGANESE-EXPOSED WELDERS

¹Susan Nielsen, ²Harvey Checkoway, ³Susan Criswell, ¹Federico Farin, ^{3,4}Brad Racette. *¹University of Washington, Seattle, WA, USA; ²University of California San Diego, San Diego, CA, USA; ³Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, MO, USA; ⁴University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa*

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Objectives To assess whether parkinsonism in manganese (Mn)-exposed welders is associated with methylation of NOS2, a methylation-regulated gene that codes for inducible nitric oxide synthase (iNOS). We hypothesised that parkinsonian welders

would have lower NOS2 methylation than other welders, consistent with greater iNOS activity and an inflammatory pathogenesis.

Method In a cohort of U. S. shipyard welders we conducted a nested case-control study of parkinsonism and DNA methylation of a NOS2 region previously suggested to be altered with welding exposure. A movement disorders specialist examined each subject using the Unified Parkinson Disease Rating Scale motor subsection 3 (UPDRS3). We included 50 parkinsonian welders as cases (UPDRS3 \geq 15), 105 welders with normal exams (UPDRS3 <6), and 50 welders with an intermediate UPDRS3 score (\geq 6 to <15), all non-Hispanic Caucasian men 25–65 years of age. We used DNA from whole blood and a pyrosequencing assay for 3 CpG (methylation) sites in NOS2 exon 1. We used unconditional polytomous logistic regression to assess the age-adjusted association between parkinsonism and mean NOS2 methylation.

Results CpG sites were highly methylated (90.8–98.5% mean methylation) among all subjects. Welders with parkinsonism had significantly lower NOS2 methylation than normal welders (odds ratio [OR]=0.69, 95% confidence interval [CI] 0.49–0.97 per 1% absolute increase in methylation). The welders with intermediate UPDRS3 scores also had lower methylation compared to normal welders (OR=0.88, 95% CI 0.65–1.20) (p trend = 0.03). Adjustment for smoking did not alter the results.

Conclusions This study suggests that inflammation mediated by NOS2 gene expression may underlie the pathophysiology of parkinsonism in Mn-exposed welders.

0253 HAIRDRESSERS ARE OCCUPATIONALLY EXPOSED TO ORTHO- AND META- TOLUIDINE

¹Maria Albin, ¹Gabriella Johansson, ¹Bo Jönsson, ¹Anna Axmon, ¹Christian Lindh, ²Marie-Louise Lind, ¹Mats Gustavsson, ¹Karin Broberg Palmgren, ²Anders Boman, ²Birgitta Meding, ³Carola Lidén. *¹Department of Occupational and Environmental Medicine, Lund, Sweden; ²Institute of Environmental Medicine, Stockholm, Sweden*

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Objectives Hairdressing work is classified as carcinogenic based on excess risk for bladder cancer. We aimed at evaluating if current hairdressers are exposed to established/suspected bladder carcinogens (aromatic amines) and indicate possible sources of exposure.

Method Hairdressing salons listed in the telephone book were contacted for personal visits, 295 hairdressers were recruited (an estimated half of the eligible invited subjects). For comparison we included 32 consumers and 60 controls employed at our hospital. The study was restricted to female non-smokers. Questionnaires including frequency of performed work tasks were filled in by the hairdressers, and all subjects reported personal hair dye use, and exposure to environmental tobacco smoke. Blood samples were taken for analysis (gas chromatography-tandem mass spectrometry; GC-MS/MS) of ortho (o)-, meta (m)-, and para (p)-toluidine; 2-, 3-, and 4-ethylaniline, 2,3- and 3,4-dimethylaniline as haemoglobin adducts.

Results Adduct concentrations did not differ significantly between hairdressers, consumers and controls. However, for hairdressers, o- and m-toluidine concentrations increased with the weekly performed number of permanent hair dyeings ($p = 0.026$), and hair waving treatments ($p = 0.020$). o- and m-Toluidine concentrations also tended ($p = 0.076$ and 0.080 , respectively) to increase with the frequency of light colour permanent