Objective To determine whether overweight and obesity and age are associated with a higher risk of accidents at work and occupational disease.

Background Data During recent years, professional contingencies have been increasing at work, a change that coincides with a higher prevalence of obesity and older work population.

Methods This cross-sectional study was carried out among 1489 workers in healthcare industry. This study identified the prevalence of obesity and overweight in a hospital and its associations with occupational diseases and accidents at work over a 4 years period. With and without absences from work and the length of the absences were recorded. Body mass index (BMI) and demographic details were recorded.

Results At baseline, 48.3% had normal-weight (BMI [body mass index]: 18.5–24.99 kg/m²), 34.3% were overweight (BMI: 25–29.99 kg/m²), 14.8% were obese (BMI ≥30 kg/m²), and 2.6% were underweight (BMI <18.5 kg/m²). During the 4 years period, with a mean of 46 years, 263 participants were diagnosed with a professional contingency (accident at work or occupational disease). Compared with normal-weight individuals, there was no statistically significant difference having an occupational contingency between overweight and obese workers (p-value 0.161). Although, we found that the age is a risk factor of having an accident at work.

Conclusion Obese and overweight persons are not at a higher risk of developing an occupational contingency. Furthermore, our results indicate that the age might be a novel explanation for the increased number of workers with accidents at work.

Poster Presentation
Methodology

FIELD STUDY POTENTIAL IN INDIA FOR OCCUPATIONAL HEAT STRESS – CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

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Collecting information about health and productivity implications of occupational heat exposures directly from workers can have its own challenges but not impossible to accomplish. This is presented based on experiences from prior work in occupational setting-based participatory research with workers. Permissions from industries to conduct research and the initial lack of trust and scepticism from the workers is a major challenge. Lack of mutual understanding between the workers and the researchers’ expectation, lack of understanding of the study objectives both by the untrained interviewer and workers, cognitive limitations and busy schedule of the workers create barriers to reliable and complete data collection. Apart from these, research logistics and procedures such as recruitment, travel and compensation for the research personnel, quality and interpretation of data, including issues of validity and reliability are other challenges. Strategic planning, consultation with employers, ethical and careful development of trust between the researcher, employer and the worker have been key to the success of the field study that requires investment and deployment of time and resources. A well-thought through and validated questionnaire structured with contextual approaches, trained interviewers and conducting cohort studies in the same workplaces have also been successful methods in developing trust for eliciting reliable data from the workers. Collecting less structured data from workers is potentially very productive but requires the anticipation, avoidance, or negotiation of the challenges. Future work is necessary to better understand these challenges across different methods and settings, as well as to test and identify strategies to address them.
Evaluation of occupational exposures and parkinsonism among women textile workers in Shanghai, China

Introduction

2,6-Dinitroanilines included 15 herbicides, some of which are still used on a wide range of crops worldwide and in France, especially pendimethalin which was given special attention by the IARC. The aim of our analyses was to estimate the associations between LC exposure and pendimethalin, benfluralin, butralin, ethalfluralin, nitralin, oryzalin, trifluralin - all once or still authorised in France -, in the French AGRIculture and CANcer (AGRICAN) cohort.

Methods

More than 180,000 people affiliated for at least 3 years to the agricultural health insurance scheme were enrolled between 2005 and 2007. A total of 563 incident LC were identified from enrollment to 2011. Data on crop exposure during lifetime (13 crops, specific tasks including pesticide use) were collected. The evaluation of potential exposure to each dinitroaniline relied on a specific crop-exposure matrix, PESTIMAT. Analyses were adjusted on smoking history, involvement in cattle and horse breeding, peas growing, exposure to farming activities during childhood.

Results

In the population, 16,533 people (11.2% of the cohort) were potentially exposed to one or more dinitroanilines. Pendimethalin and trifluralin were the most frequently involved in progression among workers who had experienced several years of shiftwork. No association was observed between endotoxin and PS prevalence or disease severity.

Conclusions

We observed no increased risk of LC among pendimethalin users. Our results suggest a possible association of lung adenocarcinoma with oryzalin, currently authorised in France, especially on the vineyard.