

Poster Presentation

Cancer

0140 BREAST CANCER INCIDENCE AND METALWORKING FLUID EXPOSURE IN A COHORT OF FEMALE AUTOWORKERS

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Breast cancer is the leading cancer diagnosed among women and environmental studies have produced few leads on modifiable risk factors. Following an Institute of Medicine recommendation for occupational studies of highly exposed women, we took advantage of an existing cohort of 4503 female hourly autoworkers exposed to metalworking fluid (MWF), complex mixtures of oils and chemicals widely used in metal manufacturing worldwide. Cox proportional hazards models were fit to estimate hazard ratios (HR) for incident breast cancer and cumulative exposure (20 year lag) to straight mineral oils (a known human carcinogen), and water-based soluble and synthetic MWF. Because the state cancer registry began in 1985, decades after the cohort was defined, we restricted analyses to sub-cohorts hired closer to the start of cancer follow-up. Among those hired after 1969, the HR associated with an increase of one interquartile range in straight MWF exposure was 1.13 (95% confidence interval: 1.03, 1.23). In separate analyses of premenopausal breast cancer, as defined by age at diagnosis, the HR was elevated for exposure to synthetic MWF, chemical lubricants with no oil content, suggesting a different mechanism for the younger cases. This study adds to the limited literature regarding quantitative chemical exposures and breast cancer risk.

Oral Presentation

Specific Occupations

0142 LONGER TERM PHYSICAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING IN AUSTRALIAN GULF WAR VETERANS, 20 YEARS AFTER DEPLOYMENT

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Background Ten years after the 1990–1991 Gulf War (GW), Australian veterans were found to have significantly poorer psychological health and some indicators of poorer physical health.

Methods A cohort of GW veterans and matched military comparison group were assessed at baseline (2000–2002) and follow-up (2011–2012), including a 63-item symptom checklist, modified CDC definition of multisymptom illness (MSI), doctor-diagnosed medical conditions since 2001, chronic fatigue and neurological symptom questionnaires. Additional measures e.g. irritable bowel syndrome (IBS) were included at follow-up.

Results From baseline, 715/1,330 veterans (54%) and 675/1,449 comparison group (47%) participated at follow-up. Relative to comparison group, GW veterans reported a higher average number of symptoms (ratio of means 1.36, 95% CI 1.24–1.48), higher prevalence of MSI (risk ratio RR 1.60; 1.31–1.95), chronic fatigue RR 1.41 (1.02–1.96), IBS RR 1.64 (1.18–2.27) and 6/40 medical conditions. GW veterans were significantly more likely to report ≥ 1 RR 1.13 (1.03–1.25) or ≥ 4 RR 1.32 (1.07–1.64) neuropathic symptoms. From baseline to follow-up, overall, symptom prevalence and MSI increased and remained higher in GW veterans; the gap between GW veterans' and comparison group symptomatology remained unchanged; chronic fatigue prevalence more than doubled in both groups, and there was a non-significantly greater incidence of chronic fatigue in GW veterans.

Conclusions These findings indicate enduring increased health symptoms and longer term adverse physical health outcomes associated with GW service, and highlight the importance of effective detection and management of chronic physical conditions and improved awareness among health practitioners of conditions occurring more commonly in veterans.

Poster Presentation

Exposure Assessment

0143 A 10 YEAR PROSPECTIVE STUDY OF TONER HANDLING WORKERS

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Purpose To measure the risk of pulmonary disease due to toner dust exposure, in a 10 year prospective cohort study among toner handling workers.

Methods Subjects that were included in the analysis of this study were 260 male employees of a Japanese photocopier, printer and toner production company. Onset of pneumoconiosis, pulmonary fibrosis, granulomatous pneumonia and lung cancer were assumed as endpoints of the investigation, and blood markers (KL-6, SP-D), respiratory function index and the chest CT shadow reading were used as substitute end-points for before the onset of these diseases. Disease onset was determined via a self-administered questionnaire, blood tests and respiratory function tests were conducted once a year, while Chest CT examinations were conducted in the 1st, 5th and 10th year of the study. Subjects were classified by duration of toner handling work into four groups - long-exposure (>20 years): n=65 (mean 40 years, smoking rate 35%); medium-exposure (10–20 years): n=71 (mean age 31.9 years, smoking rate 47.9%), and short-exposure (<10 years): n=50 (mean age 31.6 years, smoking rate 46%). The average dust levels in the environment of the toner handling work decreased well below the ACGIH allowable concentrations through the period of the study.

Results None of the endpoint diseases developed in any of the four groups. Annual percent change for blood marker and respiratory function levels, and chest CT parameters were compared across the four groups but no statistical significance was seen.

Conclusion The risk of developing respiratory disease with the levels of toner dust exposure found in this study was extremely low.

Poster Presentation

Methodology

0144 ASSESSING AND ADDRESSING NON-RESPONSE AT FOLLOW-UP IN THE GULF STUDY

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Withdrawn at the author's request

Poster Presentation

Psychosocial

0145 EFFECTS OF PERCEIVED JOB INSECURITY ON DEPRESSION, SUICIDE IDEATION, AND DECLINE IN SELF-RATED HEALTH IN KOREA: A POPULATION-BASED PANEL STUDY

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Purpose To investigate the effects of job security on new-onset depression, suicide ideation, and decline in self-rated health.

Methods We analysed data from the Korea Welfare Panel Study from 2012 to 2015. Participants were 2552 waged workers. Depression, suicide ideation, and health were assessed by self-reported questionnaires on an annual basis. We classified the participants into high job security group, intermediate job security group, and low job security group. To evaluate the influence of job security on outcomes, we performed survival analysis after stratification by gender with adjustment for covariates. The result was stratified by gender and based on whether the respondent was the head of the house or not.

Results After adjusting for covariates in men, the hazard ratios (HRs) were significantly higher among low job security group for depression (HR 1.52), suicide ideation (HR 4.00), and decline in self-rated health (HR 1.83). In women, the HR of depression was significantly higher for the intermediate job security group (HR 1.62). For men with low job security who were the head of the house, the HR of depression, suicide ideation, and decline in self-rated health was significantly higher. Besides, those with intermediate job security had an increased risk of decline in self-rated health. In women with intermediate and low job security, the risk of depression was higher when they were the head of the house.

Conclusions We found that perceived job insecurity is associated with the onset of depression, suicide ideation, and decline in self-rated health.

Poster Presentation

Injuries

0146 EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SURVEILLANCE OF FATAL OCCUPATIONAL INJURIES

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