to investigate whether farmers in Taiwan had an increased risk of dying from leukaemia (ICD-9 codes 204–208). All deaths of Taiwan residents were retrieved from the Taiwan Death Certification Registry. Cases were defined as deaths from leukaemia who were at least 50 years of age between 1997 and 2009. Controls were deaths from all causes other than cancers. We extracted information on sex, marital status, year of birth, year of death, cause of death, county of residence, and usual occupation from each death certificate. Logistic regression models were applied to calculate the mortality odds ratio (MOR) and their 95% confidence interval (CI). A total of 32 456 deceased farmers were identified between 1997 and 2009. Of these 32 456 decedents, 140 deaths were coded as leukaemia. After adjusted for gender, marital status, age at death, year of death, and urbanisation level, farmers were not with significant increase in the risk of leukaemia (aMOR=0.92, 95% CI=0.77–1.10), compared to non-farmers. There were no significant difference in term of the death by age and gender between farmers and non-farmers. The patterns of death by age and gender were similar between farmers and non-farmers. Further investigation of leukaemia risk among farmers is warranted.

Oral Presentation

Other

0204 RETINAL DETACHMENT AND OCCUPATIONAL LIFTING: THE EVIDENCE TO DATE

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Introduction There is an “oral tradition”, especially among myopics, that heavy lifting leads to retinal detachment (RD). Some years ago, searching the literature, we failed to find evidence supporting this theory. Then, in the early 2000s, we performed a case-control study to test the hypothesis that repeated lifting tasks could be a risk factor for RD.

Methods Cases were identified among myopic patients surgically treated for RD in a large urban hospital. Controls were drawn from myopic outpatients attending an eye clinic in the same catchment area. Both filled in a questionnaire on personal and work-related factors, including past/present occupational lifting tasks. Three categories of exposure to lifting (product of load, manoeuvres/hour and lifting-years) were identified: no lifting, light lifting (≤ 8000 kg freq yr), heavy lifting (> 8000 kg freq yr). We estimated odds ratios (ORs) and 95% confidence intervals (95% CIs) by fitting a logistic regression model adjusted for age, sex and degree of myopia.

Results 61 cases and 99 controls were identified. In addition to ocular surgery and ocular and/or head trauma (known risk factors), strong independent associations were recorded for heavy lifting (OR 4.4, 95% CI 1.5–13) and high body mass index (OR 6.8, 95% CI 1.6–29). No association was recorded for light lifting (OR 1.1, 95% CI 0.4–3.0).

Conclusion These findings supported the a priori hypothesis that heavy lifting was a strong risk factor for RD. We are now conducting a multicentre case-control study to confirm our previous results. If confirmed, this association would open up new opportunities for prevention.

Poster Presentation

Respiratory

0205 SPIROMETRIC CHANGES IN NORMAL OR EARLY ILO PNEUMOCONIOSIS RADIOGRAPHS OF SANDSTONE-DUST EXPOSED WORKERS: A PRELIMINARY RESULT

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Poster Presentation

Working Conditions

0206 THE LONGITUDINAL ASSOCIATION BETWEEN MULTIPLE JOB HOLDING AND LONG-TERM SICKNESS ABSENCE AMONG DANISH EMPLOYEES. AN EXPLORATIVE STUDY USING REGISTER-BASED DATA

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Background Multiple job holding (MJH) is common in many countries, but little is known about its (health) consequences. Our aim is to explore the longitudinal association between