microstructures of monocytes were observed by TEM and SEM, and titanium was identified by energy dispersion type X-ray spectroscopy (EDX). Adherent monocytes were pre-cultured with Alexa 568 dextran (A-Dex) to visualise endosomes.

**Results**

TNS exposure induced apoptosis of PBMC in the 7 days culture, the dose dependency of which was similar to asbestos, although apoptosis was not induced at the early stage of day 2 unlike asbestos. The apoptosis was inhibited by Q-VD-OPh pan-caspase inhibitor. Isolated CD4+ T cells as well as monocytes showed apoptosis caused by TNS exposure, whereas monocytes showed giant vacuole formation prior to apoptosis. TNS-like compounds in vacuoles were observed by TEM, and SEM images showed rough surface of the inner layer of vacuolar membrane, in which titanium was identified by EDX. Most of vacuoles showed co-localization with fluorescence of A-Dex.

**Conclusion**

These results indicate that TNS have toxic effect to cause caspase-dependent apoptosis of immune cells. In particular, TNS showed characteristic toxicity for monocytes, in which engulfed TNS were thought to enter into the endosomal pathway, leading to vacuole formation followed by apoptosis. Those findings suggest hazardous risk of occupational exposure to TNS.

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**BIOLOGICAL EFFECTS OF CLOTH CONTAINING SPECIFIC ORE POWDER IN PATIENTS WITH POLLEN ALLERGY**

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**Abstracts**

**Introduction**

Pollen allergy is major problem in Japan. The custom-home building company, Cosmic Garden Co. Ltd., located in Okayama City, Japan was established in 1997 and uses specific natural ore powder (SNOP) in wall materials to improve allergic symptoms. In this study, we surveyed biological effects of short term stay in a room surrounded by SNOP cloth.

**Methods**

To investigate the biological effects of SNOP patients with a pollen allergy were recruited to stay in a room surrounded by cloth containing SNOP (CCSNOP), and their symptoms and various biological parameters were compared with those of individuals staying in a room surrounded by control non-woven cloth (NWC). Each stay lasted 60 min. Before and immediately after the stay, a questionnaire regarding allergic symptoms, as well as POMS (Profile of Mood Status) and blood sampling, was performed. Post-stay minus pre-stay values were calculated and compared between CCSNOP and NWC groups.

**Results**

Results indicated that some symptoms, such as nasal obstruction and lacrimation, improved, and POMS evaluation showed that patients were calmer following a stay in CCSNOP. Relative eosinophils, non-specific Ig E, epidermal growth factor, monocyte chemotactic protein-1, and tumour necrosis factor-α increased following a stay in CCSNOP.

**Conclusion**

This ore powder improved allergic symptoms, and long-term monitoring involving 1 to 2 months may be necessary to fully explore the biological and physical effects of SNOP on allergic patients.
**1661** NEW EVIDENCE ON CHD RISKS DUE TO PSYCHOSOCIAL STRESS AT WORK AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

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The topics of the session will cover interdisciplinary research on occupational and environmental agents (mainly stress, occupational physical activity, lifestyle) that may increase the risk of cardiovascular diseases (CVD). Those diseases are still a major health problem in Europe and, therefore, an efficient research on this topic is necessary. In the frame of the session, the above studies revealed the occupational environment and long driving experience being the risk factors for the accelerated ageing of lorry-drivers, which can result in health problems, occupational and work-related diseases.

**1661a** THE ROLE OF OCCUPATIONAL PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AND WORK STRESS IN CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE

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**Introduction** Growing evidence has shown that occupational physical activity increases the risk for cardiovascular disease and mortality. Performing strenuous physical activities at work remains a daily reality for a significant part of workers in different sectors. There is thus a critical need to develop preventive measures against premature cardiovascular disease risk in workers with high physical demands. It is particularly important to elucidate the role of work environment on cardiovascular disease in this group. The psychosocial work stress environment offers opportunities to counter the harmful effects of physical work demands.

**Methods and result** An overview will be presented of available studies addressing moderating effects of psychosocial stress measures in the relation between occupational physical activity and cardiovascular disease. A limited number of studies have shown that psychosocial resources — like social support at work and level of job control — may buffer the harmful effect of health from physical work demands. In addition, this presentation will focus on the potential mechanisms by which the psychosocial work environment might play a role in the effects of occupational physical activity on cardiovascular health outcomes.

**Discussion** Research showing that occupational physical activity does not produce cardiovascular health benefits — like leisure time physical activity does — has rapidly expanded over the past decade. On the contrary, more and more evidence confirms that engaging in high levels of occupational physical activity generates increased risk of cardiovascular disease. One of the current challenges in this research field is to investigate how the psychosocial work environment may play a role in this relation. Empirical evidence on the buffering effect of psychosocial stress measures in the relation between occupational physical activity and cardiovascular outcomes is still quite scarce. More detailed investigations using objective measurements are needed.