about how current workplace strategies to prevent the spread of COVID-19 may be having unintentional consequences on worker health and safety.

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CHRONIC EXPOSURE TO PESTICIDES (AGROTOXICS) BY ENDEMIC WORKERS IN THE STATE AND MUNICIPALITY OF RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL.

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Introduction The use of pesticides (agrototoxics), including some that were restricted or banned worldwide, is a key element of the Brazilian vector control strategy, making them potential exposure sources. This exposure is more intense for professionals directly involved with the manipulation and application of these substances, like the Endemic Workers (EW), who suffered for decades a process of continuous exposure to agrototoxics associated with several health problems, including neurotoxic damage and cancer.

Objectives Identify and characterize the harmfulness of agrototoxics used by endemic workers.

Methods Through a documentary research using official documents from the health departments of the state and municipality of Rio de Janeiro and a literature review, the agrototoxics used by the EW in the region between the years 2000 and 2019 and its implications to human health, were identified and analysed, aiming to contribute to the elaboration of the exposure profile of these workers.

Results The study identified a total of 11 active ingredients of pesticides in the products used in the state and municipality of Rio de Janeiro. Among the effects on humans associated with exposure to these substances, the neurotoxic effect of 7 of them (alpha-cypermethrin, bendiocarb, deltamethrin, phenitrothione, malathion, permethrin and temephos) and the carcinogenic potential of alpha-cypermethrin, malathion and permethrin stands out. During the pandemic, new agrototoxics have been introduced in vector control actions, containing clothianidin, deltamethrin, pralethrin, imidacloprid and Saccharopolyspora spinosa, agrototoxics that already have been associated with several health effects, so is likely that the EW will continue to be chronically exposed to harmful substances in their labour activities.

Conclusion The implications of the exposure to agrototoxics reinforce the need to reformulate the national vector control policy that employs them in a massive volume, exposing the EW category, as well as the general population and the environment to these harmful effects.

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ALLERGIC ASTHMA IN THE WORKPLACE

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Introduction Allergic asthma is currently the most frequent respiratory pathology in the workplace. Whether induced or aggravated by the work environment, the adequacy

between this morbid state and work is often subject to re-evaluation.

Objectives Study the socio-professional, clinical, para-clinical characteristics of allergic asthma in the workplace, to assess their impact on the ability to work and to compare occupational asthma (OA) and work exacerbated asthma (WEA) in terms of associated professional and extra-professional factors and in terms of repercussions on aptitude.

Methods Retrospective study of occupational allergic asthma collected from the Department of Occupational Medicine of La Rabta hospital during the period from January 2000 to December 2020.

Results This is a series of 232 cases of work-related allergic asthma, including 76.7% OA and 23.3% WEA. The mean age was 40.28 ± 8.96 years. The female gender was represented in 50.9% of cases. The sectors that provided the most asthma were textile sector (10%) and health sector (10.9%). The clinical symptoms were dominated by wheezing dyspnea (51.5%). The responsible agents were high molecular weight allergens (HMW) in particular vegetable textile dust (9.9%), low molecular weight (LMW) such as isocyanate (11.6%), formaldehyde (11.2%). The age and seniority were higher in the OA group, ($p = 0.002$) and ($p = 0.005$). This group was associated with the grade of unskilled worker ($p = 0.035$), exposure to HMW allergens ($p = 0.008$), and the mutation of workplace ($p \leq 10^{-3}$). In addition, WEA was associated with a history of personal and family atopy with respectively ($p \leq 10^{-3}$) and ($p = 0.017$), work in the transport sector ($p \leq 10^{-3}$) and temporary unfitness to work ($p \leq 10^{-3}$).

Conclusion Allergic asthma in workplace, reflects inappropriate working conditions. The adoption of preventive measures at the same time as medical treatment is the only guarantee to keep the ability to work.

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MANAGEMENT OF BLOOD EXPOSURE ACCIDENTS VICTIMS EXPOSED TO HIV BY THE OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT OF RABTA HOSPITAL

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Introduction Post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) reduces the risk of transmission of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) following blood exposure accidents (BEA). However, there are no updated Tunisian recommendations for its use.

Objectives To describe the circumstances of BEA requiring PEP and to evaluate the prescribing practices of PEP and clinical, biological and serological follow-up of victims.

Methods We conducted a descriptive retrospective study of victims of BEA who sought medical care in the occupational medicine department of Rabta hospital in Tunis, from 1998 to 2018 and for whom a PEP was prescribed.

Results A total of 456 cases were included with a median age of 30 ± 10.3 years and a sex-ratio of 0.56. They were healthcare workers in 98% of cases, mainly physicians (35.4%), hospital porters and cleaning staff (22.3%). The most frequent tasks leading to the accidents were waste disposal (16%) and taking blood samples (10.8%). In cases of known sources (72.6%), the PEP was prescribed because the sources were HIV positive (23.6%) or had risk factors for