OCCUPATIONAL RADIATION EXPOSURE AND INFLAMMATORY BIOMARKERS RELATED TO CIRCULATORY DISEASES AMONG MALE INTERVENTIONAL MEDICAL WORKERS

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Introducion A few epidemiologic studies have reported increased risk of circulatory disease among population exposed to ionizing radiation although the mechanism has not been established.

Objectives We investigated the association between occupational radiation exposure and inflammatory biomarkers in medical workers at interventional radiology departments.

Methods We conducted a field survey for interventional medical workers in 2017. Individual radiation dose was linked to the National Dose Registry in 1996–2017. Twenty-three inflammatory biomarkers related to circulatory diseases were measured using by multiplex immunoassays in blood plasma. Multiple linear regression analysis was used to analyze the associations between radiation exposure and inflammatory biomarkers adjusted for potential confounders.

Results A total of 73 male medical workers (52 radiologists, 21 radiologic technologists) were included in this study and they have been worked for a mean of 11.1 years at the department of interventional radiology. The mean cumulative badge dose was 22.5 mSv, which ranged from the 0.01 to 109.3 mSv. The pro-inflammatory cytokines IFN-β, IFN-γ and anti-inflammatory cytokines IL-1ra, IL-4 were significantly decreased with cumulative occupational radiation dose (coefficient = -0.388 per 10 mSv, -0.080 per 10 mSv, -0.564 per 10 mSv, -0.068 per 10 mSv, respectively), whereas endothelial cell adhesion molecules E-selectin and pro-inflammatory cytokines MIF showed significantly increased association (coefficient = 0.058 per 10 mSv, 0.189 per 10 mSv, respectively). The association between radiation dose and the level of biomarkers were similar by job titles.

Conclusion This study suggests that low-dose occupational radiation exposure was associated with a few inflammatory biomarkers related to circulatory diseases among interventional medical workers. However, given some limitations, further investigation with larger population are warranted.

CANCER OUTCOMES OF EPIDEMIOLOGICAL STUDIES AMONG PETROLEUM WORKERS AND RESIDENTS LIVING IN OIL PRODUCING COMMUNITIES: A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW AND META-ANALYSIS

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Introduction Petroleum extraction and refining are major sources of various occupational carcinogens and of air pollution and may therefore contribute to the global cancer burden.

Objectives The aim of the research is to evaluate the evidence on the possible association between RF-EMF exposure in various occupational activities and carcinogenic effects in published epidemiologic studies.

Methods A systematic review of human epidemiologic studies investigating carcinogenic effects in workers occupationally exposed to RF-EMF is ongoing within the Italian research project BRIC 2018 – ID 06, supported by the Italian Workers’ Compensation Authority (INAIL). The protocol of the study has been registered in the PROSPERO database (CRD42020200202).

Results The preliminary results of the review indicate that, even if various types of cancers as blood and lymphatic neoplasms, uveal melanoma, testicular, breast, lung and skin cancers were also evaluated, the majority of the studies focus on the possible association between occupational RF-EMF exposure and brain tumors. One of the major problems of research, observed in most of the studies, is the evaluation of exposure: the methods applied for RF-EMF exposure classification and assessment have several limits, possibly jeopardizing aggregate quantitative analyses (as, e.g., pooling Odds Ratios effect size (ES) and 95% confidence intervals (CI) were analysed using random effect models, and heterogeneity across studies was assessed (I2).

Overall, petroleum industry work was associated with an increased risk of mesothelioma (ES = 2.09, CI: 1.58–2.76), skin melanoma (ES = 1.34, CI: 1.06–1.70 multiple myeloma (ES = 1.81, CI: 1.28–2.55), and cancers of the prostate (ES = 1.13, CI: 1.05–1.22) and urinary bladder (ES = 1.25, CI: 1.09–1.43) and a decreased risk of cancers of the esophagus, stomach, colon, rectum, and pancreas. Offshore petroleum work was associated with an increased risk of lung cancer (ES = 1.20; 95% CI: 1.03–1.39) and leukemia (ES = 1.47; 95% CI: 1.12–1.92) in stratified analysis. Residential proximity to petroleum facilities was associated with childhood leukemia (ES = 1.90, CI: 1.34–2.70).

Conclusion Many of the associations however appear to be due to factors other than those directly emerging from the petroleum production, including the inverse associations. Improved exposure assessment is needed in further studies to identify the drivers of the observed cancer risks. In particular, there is a need for targeted studies in under-researched areas of high petroleum production with presumably higher exposures. An international consortium guiding new generation studies in Africa, the Middle East and Asia, to harmonize study protocols and exposure assessments, may be the most promising way forward.

OCCUPATIONAL EXPOSURE TO RADIOFREQUENCY ELECTROMAGNETIC FIELDS AND RISK OF CANCER: PRELIMINARY DATA FROM THE ITALIAN RESEARCH PROJECT BRIC 2018 – ID 06

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Introduction The possible role of Radiofrequency electromagnetic fields (RF-EMF) exposure as potential human carcinogen has been extensively studied considering mobile phones use, while until now less effort was devoted to an evaluation of the risk related to other occupational exposures.

Objectives The aim of the research is to evaluate the evidence on the possible association between RF-EMF exposure in various occupational activities and carcinogenic effects in published epidemiologic studies.

Methods A systematic review of human epidemiologic studies investigating carcinogenic effects in workers occupationally exposed to RF-EMF is ongoing within the Italian research project BRIC 2018 – ID 06, supported by the Italian Workers’ Compensation Authority (INAIL). The protocol of the study has been registered in the PROSPERO database (CRD42020200202).

Results The preliminary results of the review indicate that, even if various types of cancers as blood and lymphatic neoplasms, uveal melanoma, testicular, breast, lung and skin cancers were also evaluated, the majority of the studies focus on the possible association between occupational RF-EMF exposure and brain tumors. One of the major problems of research, observed in most of the studies, is the evaluation of exposure: the methods applied for RF-EMF exposure classification and assessment have several limits, possibly jeopardizing aggregate quantitative analyses (as, e.g., pooling Odds Ratios effect size (ES) and 95% confidence intervals (CI) were analysed using random effect models, and heterogeneity across studies was assessed (I2).

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Introduction Since most working Americans spend one third of their day at a worksite, worksite wellness programs (WWP) provide an avenue for promotion of healthy lifestyles and may reduce health risks.

Objective The purpose of this study is to describe the health trends in the WWP and identify differences between WWP participants and non-WWP workers.

Methods Health data collected from WWP participants at a US Department of Energy National Laboratory was compared to other site personnel who visited Occupational Health services during program years 2013 to 2019. Data were analyzed continuously and categorically, and analyses were conducted in SAS and R.

Results The number of participants in the WWP varied each year (range: 1,463–2,556), with participation slightly declining in later years. Overall, the percentage of those with normal blood pressure declined from 44.7% in 2013 to 29.9% in 2019, while those with a normal total cholesterol increased from 58% in 2013 to 67.2% in 2019. Both males and females in WWP saw changes in waist circumference, blood pressure, and pulse across the program years. Trends in blood pressure showed a decline in normal readings, but both waist circumference and pulse increased the percentage of normal readings. When comparing WWP participants to non-participants, WWP generally had better health values than non-participants in heart rate and blood pressure. In most years, BMI remained the similar between the two groups; however, WWP participants had significantly lower BMIs in 2013 and 2015.

Conclusion The results of the study show that biometric values change over time for WWP participants. Overall, the WWP participants had better biometric values than non-participants. However, more research is needed to determine if this difference is the result of the WWP, or if the volunteerism of WWP participants represents a behavioral difference that may influence their willingness to improve their health.

Introduction Musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs) are the first medical reason for work stoppage among military personnel and are one of the main reasons for dismissal from army service. Prevalence of MSDs, in particular those of the upper limbs (UL-MSDs), among military officers, is insufficiency known, as well as their risk factors, given the complexity of the military service.

Objective To assess the prevalence and the determinants of UL-MSDs in Tunisian army officers.

Methods This is a cross-sectional study among army officers, based on a questionnaire with several items: socio-demographic, occupational characteristics, and psycho-social constraints at work through the Karasek standardized questionnaire. The Nordic questionnaire was adapted to assess musculoskeletal health.