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A 37-year Update on Mortality Patterns in an Expanded Cohort of Vermont Talc Miners and Millers.

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Author information

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Abstract

OBJECTIVES: The aim of this study was to update a cohort of Vermont talc workers to include 37 additional years of follow-up time.

METHODS: Standardized mortality ratios (SMR) and 95% confidence intervals (CIs) were calculated for 70+ causes of death. US population mortality rates were used as reference.

RESULTS: All-cause mortality was 30% higher than the US population (SMR 133.4, 95% CI, 119.7 to 148.3). Significant elevations occurred in nonmalignant respiratory disease (NMRD) (SMR 273.0, 95% CI, 210.2 to 348.6) and other nonmalignant respiratory disease (ONMRD) (SMR 413.1, 95% CI, 287.7 to 574.5). ONMRD was elevated across all length of employment categories and a test for linear trend was significant (P=0.007).

CONCLUSIONS: This study provides further evidence that excess deaths among Vermont talc workers are due largely to excess mortality from NMRD; there is no evidence of increased risk of respiratory cancer.

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Mesothelioma Associated with the Use of Cosmetic Talc.

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Abstract

OBJECTIVE: To describe exposures to talcum powder leading to mesothelioma among 33 individuals as a non-occupational asbestos exposure.

METHODS: Cases were referred for medico-legal evaluation, and tissue digestions were performed in some cases. Tissue digestion for the six cases described was done according to standard methodology RESULTS:: Asbestos of the type found in talcum powder was found in all six cases evaluated.. Talcum powder usage was the only source of asbestos for all 33 cases.

CONCLUSIONS: Exposure to asbestos-contaminated talcum powders can cause mesothelioma. Clinicians should elicit a history of talcum powder usage in all patients presenting with mesothelioma.

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