

Chapter

1. Asbestos Exposure Assessment, Risk Identification, and Substitutes

Section

C. Epidemiology of ARDs

No./Title

15. The mesothelioma epidemic in Western Europe: an update

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Introduction

Asian context

Prediction of future mesothelioma deaths in Asian countries is far less than Europe and grossly insufficient. This is particularly a problem for countries which do not report mesothelioma but record high consumption of asbestos.

Critical appraisal

Short communication. Descriptive statistical analyses on number of mesothelioma deaths as compared to predicted values.

Unique keywords

Mortality, mesothelioma

Abstract

The number of male deaths from pleural cancer in France, Germany and Italy increased from about 8,750 in 1990-1994 to 9,550 in 1995-1999, suggesting that mesothelioma deaths in males may be leveling off in most of Western Europe.



Annotation

Fact 1

- The total number of male deaths from pleural mesothelioma in France, Germany and Italy has continued to increase from 7,550 in 1985-1989 to 8,750 in 1990-1994, and 9,550 in 1995-1999.

Fact 2

- The highest age-standardized mortality rate in 1995-1999 was reported for France (1.54 per 100,000 men), followed by (1.31 per 100,000 men) and Germany (1.05 per 100,000 men)

Fact 3

- For the period 1995-1999, the observed male death numbers were 2.3% lower than predicted for Germany, 6.4% lower for Italy and 11.4% lower for France. In each of the 3 countries, the difference between the observed and predicted values was largest in the youngest age group and smallest in the oldest.

Fact 4

- To explain the development of the mesothelioma epidemic, other factors need to be invoked, such as the type of asbestos mainly used in different countries over time, duration of exposure and years since last exposure.

Fact 5

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References