### Introduction

**Asian context**

Laryngeal cancer is categorized as asbestos-related by the WHO but studies are few. Asian countries should carefully screen for and monitor laryngeal cancer among asbestos-exposed subjects.

**Critical appraisal**

Moderately elevated risks for laryngeal cancer after exposure to asbestos was reported in a population-based case-control study on laryngeal cancer conducted in South-West Germany.

**Unique keywords**

Laryngeal cancer, asbestos, Germany

### Abstract

Background: As several studies have identified asbestos exposure as an independent occupational risk factor for laryngeal cancer, the aim of our study was to confirm this association.

Methods: In a population-based case-control study on laryngeal cancer in South-West Germany occupational exposures and other risk factors were obtained by face-to-face interviews using a detailed standardized questionnaire covering the complete individual working history, supplemented by job-specific questionnaires (JSQ) especially for selected jobs known to entail exposure to asbestos. Detailed exposure information was collected over a wide range of asbestos-related jobs and branches and analyzed using different modeling strategies.

Results: Seventy-three (28.4%) cases and 158 (20.5%) controls reported any exposure to asbestos. Elevated risk estimates for asbestos exposure were found. However, those became substantially reduced after adjustment for smoking and alcohol.

Conclusion: Moderately elevated risks for laryngeal cancer after exposure to asbestos were confirmed. Difficulties in the collection of adequate exposure data were demonstrated.
In a population-based case-control study on laryngeal cancer conducted in South-West Germany, seventy-three (28.4%) laryngeal cancer cases and 158 (20.5%) controls reported any exposure to asbestos (Crude Odds Ratio 1.5; 1.1-2.1).

Asbestos risk estimates were substantially reduced after adjustment for smoking and alcohol (Odds Ratio 1.2; 0.84-1.9 for job-specific questionnaire and OR 1.0; 0.67-1.6 for substance checklist).

The study concluded that moderately elevated risks for laryngeal cancer after exposure to asbestos were confirmed.