

Association between occupational exposure to wood dust and risk of nasopharyngeal cancer: A case-control study from Thailand

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Objectives: To explore possible association between occupational wood dust exposure and risk of nasopharyngeal cancer (NPC), a matched case – control study was conducted in Bangkok and 6 regional cancer treatment centers in Thailand. **Methods:** Three hundred and twenty-seven diagnosed NPC cases were compared with 327 age and gender matched controls. Data of socio-demographic characteristics and potential risk factors were collected by personal interviews. Wood dust exposures were assessed by 3 industrial hygienists by reading lifetime occupational histories of the participants with unknown for case-control status. Assessments were done for probability, frequency and intensity of exposure to wood dust. Multivariate analyses were performed adjusting for educational level, smoking status and histories of chronic sinusitis. **Results:** We found the association between occupational wood dust exposure and NPC risk (OR 1.66, 95 % CI 1.03 – 2.67) especially for those who have definite probability of exposure (OR 1.77, 95 % CI 1.04 – 3.00), moderate frequency of exposure (OR 2.8, 95 % CI 1.22 – 6.39) and low intensity of exposure (OR 2.29, 95 % CI 1.15 – 4.59). **Conclusion:** Results of this study shows that occupational exposure to wood dust are likely to be associated with increasing risk of NPC.

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