Prevalence of respiratory disorders among primary aluminum workers, and their relation to the duration of exposure and smoking habits

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Abstract:

Introduction and study methods A cross-sectional study was conducted to describe the pattern of respiratory disorders and some associated risk factors among 260 aluminum-exposed workers and 80 nonexposed workers. Data were collected by a respiratory symptoms questionnaire. Spirometry and chest radiography were performed on all participants. Results The aluminum-exposed workers suffered significantly more from chronic cough, phlegm, wheezes and breathlessness (34.2, 42.3, 42.3 and 36.9%, respectively) compared with nonexposed workers (P

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