



Global Harmony for Occupational Health

Bridge the World

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E-Abstract Book of ICOH Congress 2015

This electronic publication of the abstracts for the ICOH Congress 2015 contains the program overview, abstracts published for the Congress and other associated reference materials.



The title for the **ICOH Congress 2015, Global Harmony for Occupational Health: Bridge the World**, reflects our wish to foster harmonized action for managing complex risks in increasingly diverse work situations.

The structure of the scientific program includes Plenary Sessions, Semi-plenary Sessions, Policy Forums, Special Sessions, Oral Sessions, and Poster Sessions. The scientific program will give delegates an opportunity to learn about the latest research and projects conducted by the world's leading scientists and experts in related fields.

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LONG-TERM EYE EFFECTS AND OCCUPATIONAL EXPOSURE TO SOLAR RADIATION: A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW OF THE RECENT LITERATURE

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Introduction:

According to WHO, pterygium, cataract and age-related macular degeneration (AMD) are among adverse eye effect induced by long-term solar radiation (SR) exposure. Since outdoor work (OW) represents one of the main causes for sunlight exposure, we decided to review recent scientific epidemiological studies on these diseases in outdoor workers.

Methods:

A search of epidemiological studies on pterygium, cataract and age-related macular degeneration (AMD) was performed. Medline and Scopus, and reference lists of all relevant articles, were selected and reviewed. Only original research articles published in English on peer review journals in the period 2003-2014 have been included. The abstracts of all identified papers were examined to select all the studies in which Authors have evaluated occupational exposure to SR.

Results:

448 studies were identified. 44 were selected according to the inclusion criteria. Twenty-five studies evaluated the association between OW and pterygium: a significant association was observed in 17, an association, but was not statistically significant, was reported in other 7 studies, while in 1 study no association was found. Twelve studies evaluated the association between OW and cataract, showing a significant association with at least one of the three main morphological types (nuclear, cortical and posterior subcapsular) in 9 of the 12 studies. 3 studies found no association. Eight studies evaluated the association between OW and AMD: 4 found a significant association, and the other 4 found a positive association, but not statistically significant.

Discussion:

According to the results of the review, outdoor work represents a relevant risk factor for the studied long-term eye diseases. For pterygium the studies reviewed indicate a causal relationship; data in European countries are scanty. For cataract most studies show a relevant association with OW, but it is not clear the morphological type(s) associated. Finally, for AMD few studies are available, and the results are not completely coherent.

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