

Vinyl chloride

K.Mundt et al. Occupational and Environmental Medicine (2000) Vol. 57 #11 p 774.

A study of mortality records for former employees working with vinyl chloride and its products. Employment records appear accurate.

A statistically significant risk of liver and biliary tract cancer is reported. SMR = 359 (95% confidence interval 284 to 446). A dose response effect has been verified, with exposure to more than 20 years having an SMR of 688 (95% confidence interval 440 to 1023).

No excess of brain cancers was found.

Comment

This work is the latest report in a long study of this very large population. Reports have consistently shown raised risk for liver cancer. Other, independent studies confirm this risk.

A review of the evidence would seem to be warranted.

