

SReid et al. (Simon Wessely) *American Journal of Epidemiology*. March (2001) Vol. 153 #6 p604.

A study of Multiple Chemical Sensitivity (MCS) and Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (CFS) in Gulf war veterans.

British soldiers were enrolled into the study as follows:

- 3531 Gulf veterans
- 2050 Bosnia veterans
- 2614 contemporaries with no deployment.

Exposures measured by individual recall.

Deployment	Prevalence of MCS	Prevalence of CFS
Gulf	1.3%	2.1%
Bosnia	0.3%	0.7%
None	0.2%	1.8%



In gulf veterans, MCS was strongly and significantly associated with recalled exposure to pesticides – OR = 12.3 (95% CI = 5.1,30.0).

Comment

Recall bias is a long-established problem for the interpretation of research. However, the reported association of MCS and pesticide exposure may be referred to again. Although MCS is rare (but ever increasing) pesticides and their uses are not.