

MC Turner et al. *Int. J. Cancer.* (2006) Vol.118 p 3124-3132

An overview of the association between allergy and cancer

This literature review was unable to identify any clear relationships between allergy and cancers at various body sites. There was some evidence that asthma increases the risk of lung cancer (OR = 1.8 (95% CI = 1.3 to 2.3)). However, the evidence to date seems to make inadequate assessment of allergy status and it is not clear whether acquired asthma (e.g. occupational asthma) has the same effect. There was also some evidence that allergy decreases the risk of pancreatic cancer and glioma.

A Navas-Acien et al. *Environ. Health. Persp.* (2006) Vol.114 p 641 – 648.

Arsenic Exposure and Type 2 Diabetes: A Systematic Review of the Experimental and Epidemiologic Evidence

Arsenic is a common contaminant in drinking water from aquifers. Occupational exposure should be strictly controlled and is associated with copper smelting, biocides (e.g. wood treatment) and glass manufacture. Environmental exposure is also associated with smelting works. In summary, the current available evidence is inadequate to establish a causal role of arsenic in diabetes.

[Editor's note: other work shows a dose response link between arsenic in drinking water and skin lesions in Bangladesh *Am J Epidemiol* (2006) Vol.163 p 1138–1148]

KZ House et al. *PNAS* (2006) Vol.103, p 12291 to 12295

Permanent carbon dioxide storage in deep-sea sediments

At sea depths of greater than 3000m liquid CO₂ has a greater density than water. Deep sea deposition of man-made CO₂ would be ineffective because of sea currents. Injection below the sediment surface would ensure isolation from sea currents. Sediments are cooler than rock so the CO₂ would not be driven off by the earth's heat. Sediment is more geologically stable than rock.

[Editor's note: It is unlikely that there is much macroscopic life at such depths and under hundreds of metres of sediment. CO₂/water mixture would probably be toxic to any life present.]

A Schreier et al. *J. Psychiatric. Res.* (2006) Vol.40 p 283 -292

Clinical characteristics of Major Depressive Disorder (MDD) run in families – A community study of 933 mothers and their children

Children of mothers who had a lifetime history of severe MDD and high number of symptoms, high impairment and/or melancholia, revealed elevated odds of MDD regarding the same characteristics as their mothers (ORs between 5.2 and 13.9).

[Editor's note: the probability that the child's severe disorder is linked to a known parental severe disorder is, on the above data, over 80%]

MM Weissman et al. *Am J Psychiatry.* (2006) Vol. 163 p 1001 – 1008

Offspring of Depressed Parents: 20 Years Later

A study of 151 offspring of moderately or severely depressed parents and a control group. The study period was 20 years up to a mean age of 35. risks for anxiety disorders, and major depression and were 2.9, 3.3 respectively, with moderate confidence intervals.

Of those with depressed parents and any mental health diagnosis:

- Females tended to become depressed between the ages of 10 and 20, males between 5 and 30.
 - Anxiety was most pronounced between the ages of 1 and 20 for both genders.
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J Szabo et al. *Bioelectromag.* (2006) Vol.27 p 451 – 457

Occupational 50 Hz Magnetic Field Exposure Measurements Among Female Sewing Machine Operators in Hungary

The average arithmetic mean exposure for all women was 0.76 μ T (range 0.06–4.27). The average of maximum values was 4.30 μ T (range 0.55–14.80). Women working with older sewing machines experienced higher exposure than women working on newer sewing machines.
