

JJ Ho et al. *Accident Analysis and Prevention* (2006) Vol.38 p 961 – 968

Estimation of reduced life expectancy from serious occupational injuries in Taiwan

The paper provides life expectancy analyses for a number of types of injury sustained at work that lead to permanent disability. The following summary table provides a crude analysis which makes the point that remaining life expectancy is typically reduced to 85% of the value without injury. The table does not show how life expectancy varies with degree or type of disability.

Table 4
Frequency distributions of life expectancies (in terms of years) for cases with permanent occupational disabilities compared with general population (referents) stratified by gender and onset age

Age (years)	Male		Female	
	Referents	Cases (% of referents)	Referents	Cases (% of referents)
20–24	47.7	42.4 (89)	56.1	49.1 (88)
25–29	43.8	37.4 (85)	51.9	44.8 (86)
30–34	40.9	33.0 (81)	47.6	41.6 (87)
35–39	36.7	29.8 (80)	42.8	38.1 (89)
40–44	32.3	26.7 (83)	38.0	34.3 (90)
45–49	28.3	22.6 (80)	33.3	29.6 (89)
50–54	22.4	19.3 (86)	28.8	24.8 (86)
55–59	18.9	16.5 (87)	24.3	19.0 (78)
60–64	16.2	13.7 (85)	20.7	15.7 (76)
65–69	13.5	11.8 (87)	17.1	13.1 (77)



A Magrez et al. *Nano Letters* (2006) Vol.6#6 p 1121 – 1125

Cellular Toxicity of Carbon-Based Nanomaterials

These studies tested the effects of exposure of cultured lung tumour cells to carbon nanotubes, carbon nanofibres and carbon nanoparticles. Carbon black was the most cytotoxic but all forms were able to reduce cell proliferation rates.

MJ Seed et al. *Allergy* (2006) Vol.61 p 648

Prediction of asthma hazard of thiamine

The report advertises the availability of an online software package designed to assess the probability that a chemical of interest has asthmagenic potential. In the case of Thiamine, the analysis suggests a 95% probability of being an asthmagen. Recent reports confirm that it is.

<http://www.coeh.man.ac.uk/research/asthma>

WT Gallo et al. *Occ. Env. Med.* (2006) Vol.63 p 683 – 687

The impact of late career job loss on myocardial infarction and stroke: a 10 year follow up using the health and retirement survey

Involuntary job loss after the age of 50 was associated with increased risk of myocardial infarction; RR = 2.5 (95% CI = 1.5 to 4.1) and stroke; RR = 2.4 (95% CI = 1.2 to 5.0). Mechanism unknown.

[Editor's note: studies of work and circulatory disease should include correction for change of work status and should allow that this effect is sensitive to age at date of change]

H Virkkunen et al. *Occ. Env. Med.* (2006) Vol.63 p 378 – 386

The triad of shift work, occupational noise, and physical workload and risk of coronary heart disease

Shift work is often associated with other risk factors e.g. higher cholesterol levels. This study attempted to correct for these effects. It found some evidence of independent association between (mostly night) shift work and higher risk of coronary heart disease. Relative risks were 1.6 after 5years follow-up and 1.3 after 13 years follow-up, but the significance of these results was [in our view] marginal.