[Downloaded free from http://www.toxicologyinternational.com on Tuesday, April 26, 2016, IP: 14.139.224.243]

Tobacco Dust, Genotoxicity, and Bidi-Making Cottage Industry

Sir,

The report on "tobacco Dust induced genotoxicity as an occupational hazard in workers of bidi making cottage industry of central India" is very interesting.[1] Khanna *et al.* noted that "bidi rollers seem to be facing the occupational hazard of genotoxicity due to handling bidi tobacco and inhalation of tobacco dust.[1]" Indeed, this topic is not a new thing. Previously, Mahimkar and Bhisey reported that "occupational exposure to bidi tobacco increases chromosomal aberrations in tobacco processors.[2]" Mahimkar and Bhisey reported for "a significant increase in deletion fragments and chromatid gaps in the exposed group.[2]" However, based on the present report by Khanna *et al*.,[1] it can confirm only that there is genotoxicity; however, the relationship to exposure might not be concluded. In fact, to confirm the exposure, biomarker monitoring is required. The available biomarkers include blood and urine levels including cotinine, thioethers, etc.[3,4]

Sim Sai Tin, Viroj Wiwanitkit[1]

Medical Center, Shantou, [1]Hainan Medical University, Hainan, China

Address for correspondence:
Prof. Sim Sai Tin,
Medical Center, Shantou, China.
E-mail: simsaitin@gmail.com

REFERENCES

1. Khanna A, Gautam DS, Gokhale M, Jain SK. Tobacco dust induced genotoxicity as an occupational hazard in workers of bidi making cottage industry of central India. Toxicol Int 2014;21:18-23.
2. Mahimkar MB, Bhisey RA. Occupational exposure to bidi tobacco increases chromosomal aberrations in tobacco processors. Mutat Res 1995;334:139-44.
3. Bhisey RA, Bagwe AN, Mahimkar MB, Buch SC. Biological monitoring of bidi industry workers occupationally exposed to tobacco. Toxicol Lett 1999;108:259-65.
4. Govekar RB, Bhisey RA. Elevated urinary thioether excretion among bidi rollers exposed occupationally to processed tobacco. Int Arch Occup Environ Health 1992;64:101-4.

Access this article online

Quick Response Code:

Website: www.toxicologyinternational.com

DOI: 10.4103/0971-6580.139818