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Observatory of Pneumoconiosis in the Americas

Observatório de Pneumoconiose nas Américas

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Observatory of Pneumoconiosis in the Americas

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Abstract

Pneumoconioses still remain a common issue in occupational safety and health due to the lack of official information on the number of workers exposed to pneumocongenic agents and former workers who were exposed to these agents. The Observatory of Pneumoconioses of the Americas" aims to undertake research efforts and data collection to obtain information on the prevalence and incidence of pneumoconiosis cases in the Americas. It will also gather initiatives to strengthen awareness among workers and employers about the risks of exposure to pneumocongenic agents, advocating for improvements in safety and health regulations and practices at the workplace.

Keywords: pneumoconiosis; health observatory; occupational health.

Resumo

As pneumoconioses continuam a ser um problema comum na segurança e saúde no trabalho devido à falta de informação oficial sobre o número de trabalhadores expostos a agentes pneumoconogênicos e de ex-trabalhadores que foram expostos a estes agentes. O Observatório de Pneumoconioses das Américas tem como objetivo empreender esforços de pesquisa e coleta de dados para obter informações sobre a prevalência e incidência de casos de pneumoconioses nas Américas. Também reunirá iniciativas para fortalecer a conscientização de trabalhadores e empregadores sobre os riscos da exposição a agentes pneumoconogênicos, defendendo melhorias nas regulamentações e práticas de segurança e saúde no local de trabalho.

Palavras-chave: pneumoconiose; observatórios de saúde; saúde do trabalhador.

Pneumoconiosis is a term coined to describe the non-neoplastic pulmonary response to the inhalation of mineral dust, primarily resulting from occupational exposures.

Pneumoconioses still remain a common issue in occupational safety and health due to the lack of official information on the number of workers exposed to pneumocongenic agents and former workers who were exposed to these agents. This lack of data can hinder the assessment of the magnitude of the problem, the implementation of preventive measures, the provision of adequate medical care, and compensation for affected individuals.

Europe, the United States, and China are the leading countries in silicosis research, with significant influence from the United States and Europe¹. Spain shows a growing prevalence of silicosis cases in individuals under the age of fifty since 2005². In both developed and developing countries, there are significant environmental liabilities related to asbestos, resulting from large civil works and major constructions. Pleural thickening is a significant consequence of exposure to all types of asbestos fibers and has increased in frequency in recent years compared to parenchymal asbestosis³.

To address this issue, the "Observatory of Pneumoconioses of the Americas" aims to undertake research efforts and data collection to obtain information on the prevalence and incidence of pneumoconiosis cases in the Americas. It will also gather initiatives to strengthen awareness among workers and employers about the risks of exposure to pneumocongenic agents, advocating for improvements in safety and health regulations and practices at the workplace.

The observatory is composed of researcher-academics from 21 countries in the Americas (Canada, USA, Mexico, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay, Argentina, Chile), 2 countries in Europe represented by Italy and Spain, and from Asia, Japan.

The objective of the observatory focuses on multidisciplinary collaboration among well-established research groups at the international level, contributing to and recommending preventive actions for the protection of workers exposed to pneumoconigenic agents in each of the participating countries.

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