

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 Wiwanitkit¹

Medical Center, Shantou, ¹Hainan 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