

OHC-30

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting

MCA Offices, Washington, D. C. April 30, 1969

PRESENT

C. U. Dernehl, M.D., Chairman	Union Carbide Corporation
E. M. Dixon, M. D., Vice Chairman	Celanese Corporation
E. E. Christofano	Hercules Incorporated
G. J. Levinskas	American Cyanamid Company
W. J. Martin, M. D.	Cyanamid of Canada Limited
W. A. McClellan, M. D.	Gulf Oil Corporation
W. E. McCormick	The B. F. Goodrich Company
R. W. McNab	Wyandotte Chemicals Corporation
F. L. Oglesby	Tennessee Eastman Company
G. J. Stopps, M.D.	E. I. du Pont de Nemours & Company
T. R. Torkelson	The Dow Chemical Company
J. H. Wolfsie, M. D.	Uniroyal, Inc.
F. G. Stephenson, Secretary	Manufacturing Chemists Association

ABSENT

Mac Roy Gasque, M. D.	Olin Mathieson Chemical Corporation
N. V. Hendricks	Standard Oil Company (N.J.)
M. N. Johnson, M. D.	Monsanto Company
J. A. Pendergrass	Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing Comp

2. "Epidemiological Investigation of the Polyvinyl Chloride Industry in Reference to Occupational Acroosteolysis" - discussion of University of Michigan report.

The Chairman stated that the subcommittee had met several times with representatives of the University of Michigan and had discussed drafts of the report. It was agreed that it would be submitted to the Occupational Health Committee prior to its submittal to manufacturers of PVC on May 6 in Washington, D. C. The Chairman asked if there should be a further study project on acroosteolysis. Dr. Magnuson will be prepared to discuss this on May 6. The present study is only a prevalence study. Little is known of how the disease starts or develops or even of the transient incidence of Raynaud's phenomenon. The recommendation for continued surveillance of PVC operators is important since it will provide valuable information.

Mr. McCormick regretted that the report does not include a footnote to explain case Dx 4 on page 101 which lists an incidence of Raynaud's phenomenon occurring in compounding, and that the word "probably" on page 67 was not changed to "possibly."

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CMA 012816

These changes had been agreed to but were not made in the final draft of the report.

Dr. Wolfsie found the report generally acceptable. The committee, he thought, should now make a definite recommendation to the manufacturers regarding further activities.

Dr. Dernehl reviewed the findings -- that the disease occurs among vessel cleaners -- that the causative agent was not definitely identified -- that most cases show a combination of Raynaud's disease and bone changes -- and that bone changes are almost indistinguishable from those resulting from traumatic injury.

Mr. Christofano questioned the recommendation to reduce vinyl chloride exposure to 50 ppm. There followed general discussion of this recommendation.

A MOTION to accept the report as submitted was then defeated by a vote of 7 to 3.

After further detailed discussion the committee VOTED unanimously to accept the report, subject to the following changes in the RECOMMENDATIONS which appear on page 104:

(a) RECOMMENDATION 1 - Page 104 of Report

Eliminate the last sentence "Where it is necessary for workers to enter the reactor tanks, sufficient ventilation should be provided to reduce the vinyl chloride concentration below 50 ppm."

Insert in its place "Where it is necessary for workers to enter the reactor tanks adequate ventilation should be provided. Inasmuch as the etiologic agent of the disease is unknown, a level of vinyl chloride below 50 ppm should be used as an index of adequate ventilation."

RECOMMENDATION 3 - Page 104 of Report Change word "continued to" to "supported"

The committee then resolved to make additional recommendations to the vinyl chloride and PVC manufacturers:

- (a) There should be pre-assignment examinations of vinyl chloride and polyvinyl chloride production workers. These examinations should include:

- I. Hand X-ray
- II. History - including that of Raynaud's disease, scleroderma and abnormal cold response.

- (b) There should be periodic surveillance examinations. These examinations should be given at least once a year and should include:

- I. Hand X-ray
- II. History - as above

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Further studies of the disease

The committee recommended that manufacturers of PVC should sponsor further studies of the disease and its causes and that such studies be under the supervision of the Occupational Health Committee.

It was further recommended that the committee chairman write to Dr. Magnuson at the University of Michigan and congratulate him on the successful conclusion of the project and on the excellence of the report.

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