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TITLE: CADERNOS DE SAUDE PUBLICA / MINISTERIO DA SAUDE,
FUNDACAO OSWALDO CRUZ, ESCOLA NACIONAL DE SAUDE
PUBLICA.
VOL/ISSUE: 1998 14 Suppl 3 ():41-66
DATE: 1998
AUTHOR OF ARTICLE: Rego MA
TITLE OF ARTICLE: Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma risk derived from exposure
PAGES: 41-66
OTHER NOS/LETTERS: DOCLINE
SR0060929
99051486
SOURCE: MEDLINE
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Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma risk derived from exposure to organic solvents: a review of epidemiologic studies

Risco de linfoma não-Hodgkin resultante da exposição a solventes orgânicos: revisão de estudos epidemiológicos

Marco Antônio V. Rêgo ^{1,2}

¹ Centro de Estudos da Saúde do Trabalhador - CESAT, Rua Pedro Lessa 123, Canela, Salvador, Bahia 40110-050, Brasil.
² Instituto de Saúde Coletiva, Universidade Federal da Bahia, Rua Padre Feijó 29, Canela, Salvador, Bahia 40111-170, Brasil. mngo@logner.com.br

Abstract The rate of non-Hodgkin's lymphomas (NHL) has increased around the world during the last decades. Apart from the role of the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection in the development of NHL, exposure to chemical agents like phenoxyacetic pesticides, hair dyes, metal fumes and organic solvents are suspected to be involved. The present review evaluates the results of studies that directly or indirectly searched for an association between solvent exposure and NHL. The selected studies comprised those published from 1979 to 1997, designed to investigate risk factors for NHL, whether specifically looking for solvent exposure or for general risks in which solvent exposure could be included. In 25 of the 45 reviewed studies (55.5%), fifty-four statistically significant associations between NHL and solvent exposure related occupations or industries were reported. Statistical significance was more frequently shown in studies where solvent exposure was more accurately defined. In eighteen of such studies, 13 (72.2%) defined or suggested organic solvents as possible risk factors for NHL.

Key words Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma; Occupational Exposure; Solvents; Epidemiology

Resumo A taxa de incidência de linfomas não-Hodgkin (LNH) tem aumentado mundialmente durante as últimas décadas. Além do papel da infecção pelo vírus da imunodeficiência humana (HIV), suspeita-se que a exposição a agentes químicos, como os pesticidas fenoxiacéticos, tinturas de cabelo, fumos metálicos e solventes orgânicos, esteja envolvida. A presente revisão avalia os resultados de estudos que direta ou indiretamente procuraram por uma associação entre exposição a solventes orgânicos e LNH. Os estudos selecionados compreendem aqueles publicados entre 1979 e 1997, que investigam fatores de risco para LNH, sejam os que especificamente analisam solventes orgânicos, sejam os que analisam riscos em geral, entre os quais a exposição a solventes pudesse estar incluída. Em 25 dos 45 estudos revisados (55,5%), foram citadas 54 associações estatisticamente significativas entre LNH e ocupações relacionadas à exposição a solventes. A presença de significância estatística foi evidenciada mais frequentemente em estudos nos quais a exposição a solventes foi definida de forma mais acurada. Em 18 destes estudos, 13 (72,2%) definiram ou sugeriram ser os solventes orgânicos possíveis fatores de risco para os LNH.

Palavras-chave Linfoma Não-Hodgkin; Exposição Ocupacional; Solventes; Epidemiologia

Introduction

The increasing rate of non-Hodgkin lymphomas (NHL) around the world during the last decades has been exhaustively demonstrated (Linos et al., 1986; Zheng et al., 1992; Devesa & Fears, 1992; Holford et al., 1992; Hartge & Devesa, 1992; Costantini et al., 1992; Rabkin et al., 1993; Hartge et al., 1994; Palackd-harry, 1994; Scherr & Mueller, 1996; Seow et al., 1996; Vineis, 1996). On the one hand, some research shows that the increase is mainly a result of viral infection, primarily the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection (Harnly et al., 1988). On the other hand, it has been discussed that this virus had little impact on the NHL incidence trends (Hartge & Devesa, 1992), and that the increase in NHL was apparent before the arrival of the acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) (Holford et al., 1992; Carli et al., 1994). Therefore, this suggests other unknown environmental causes, including chemical exposures (Longo, 1994). Other studies have presented the role of changes in the criteria disease classification and of improvement in diagnosis technology to explain part of the rate growth (Devesa & Fears, 1992), mainly for the marked increase in extra-nodal NHL in older people (Cozen & Bernstein, 1994). This explanation does not agree with the findings of Lutz & Coleman (1994) for primary cerebral lymphoma. This diagnostic bias has been denied (Banks, 1992) and a real annual increase in NHL rates of 4% in recent years in Britain (Cartwright, 1992) and a recent increase in Denmark (Hjalgrim et al., 1996) have been demonstrated. Among the chemical exposures, there are several agents suspected of being involved in the development of NHL (Blair et al., 1992; Pearce & Bethwaitc, 1992; Vineis, 1996). Some examples are the phenoxyacetic pesticides, hair dyes, metal fumes and organic solvents. The goal of the present review is to evaluate the results of these studies which directly or indirectly looked for an association between organic solvent exposures and NHL.

Methods

The selected studies included those designed to investigate risk factors for NHL, whether the main objective was specifically to look for solvent and NHL relationship or to find general risks, from which solvent exposure could appear (Table 1). In the latter ones, exposure to organic solvents was derived from the information of the occupation or the industry in which

the study subjects were enrolled. Therefore, studies whose main objectives were to study general mortality patterns, conducted within particular workers' cohorts, like mechanics, painters, printers, dry cleaners, refinery, petrochemical, chemical and rubber workers were not selected, even though some of them could have investigated the relationship of interest in this review. In the same way, the studies linking all occupations and all causes of disease or death, those focusing on NHL and the role of other specific exposures such as pesticides, smoking, sun light, etc., and those involving children also were not reviewed. Studies that had a further re-analysis, and released a new publication were evaluated again. It is also important to note that most selected studies were written in English language and were published from 1979 to January/1997. The method of selection was based on the linkage of the words lymphoma and occupational, environmental or solvent exposure using MEDLINE data from 1966 to 1997. The search was complemented by looking for other studies cited by the authors of the previously selected investigations.

Results

An observation based on a clinical case series was done in a community composed of 117 Caucasian individuals, from 1968 to 1974 (Carpurro, 1979), in that area, where a chemical plant was located, solvent exposure was measured in the environment and detected in 20% of the visits. Also, some solvents like methyl isobutyl ketone, benzene, chloroform and trichloroethylene were detected in the blood of the residents. Twenty three cases of cancer were listed, eight of them were lymphoma. Considering specifically the three deaths due to lymphosarcoma in this six year period, the relation between observed and expected cases was $3/0.0187 = 160$ fold.

The first epidemiologic study relating NHL and occupations with potential exposure to solvents was conducted using death certificates of New York State from 1950 to 1969, excluding New York City (Vianna & Polan, 1979). It was a cohort mortality study in which all male deaths with age 20 and over, among individuals within 14 benzene-related occupations were analyzed. The authors found 146 reticulum cell sarcomas (RCS) and 353 lymphosarcomas (LS), compared them with the same diseases in the general population and had the following findings: RCS, relative risk (RR) = 1.6;

LS, RR = 2.1. Among subjects 45 years old and over, within the seven occupations for which age distributions were available, the number of deaths observed was significantly higher than the number of deaths expected for the two types of lymphoma: **RCS**, observed/expected (O/E) = 1.7 ($p < 0.01$) and LS, O/E = 2.1 ($p < 0.01$). These findings were discussed and criticized for the way Vianna & Polan (1979) had gotten the information about occupations from both death certificates and the U.S. decennial census. It was said that these sources are incomparable with each other and that they should have calculated proportionate mortality ratios, based only on occupation as defined on the death certificates (Enterline, 1979).

The age-adjusted mortality rates of NHL in 3,056 counties of the United States between 1950 and 1975 were verified utilizing an ecological design (Cantor & Fraumeni Jr., 1980). It showed suggestive associations in a multiple regression analysis between NHL rates among white males and five industrial groups, including printing and publishing (significant at $p < 0.0251$), petrochemicals and rubber products. They did not find an association for other potential solvent-related industries such as Furniture, machinery and electrical.

The first study which directly looked for the relationship between lymphoma and exposure to solvents (among other exposures) was performed in Sweden (Hardell et al., 1981). They studied all 169 men admitted to the Department of Oncology in Umea with 109 diagnosed NHL and 60 Hodgkin's disease (HD), and eight controls matched by age, sex and residence for each living case and 10 for each deceased case matched also by year of death, from the National Population Registry. Analysis of high grade and low grade exposure produced an odds ratio (OR) = 2.8 (1.6-4.8) and an OR = 1.2 (0.5-2.6), respectively. Exposure to styrene, trichloroethylene, perchloroethylene and benzene among the high grade exposed individuals gave greater risk than exposure to other organic solvents, OR = 4.6 (1.9-11.4). A modifying effect was found when combined exposure to organic solvents and phenoxy acids, OR = 11.2 (3.2-39.7) and chlorophenols (eight exposed and no exposed controls) were analyzed.

These data were reanalyzed (Hardell et al., 1994) and the authors found the following results: carpenter: 13 exposed cases/36 exposed controls, OR = 1.1 (0.6-2.4); mechanic: 5/7, OR = 2.5 (0.7-9.6); motor mechanic: 7/20, OR = 1.3 (0.5-3.4); all organic solvents: 45/88, OR = 2.4 (1.4-3.9); high grade exposure: 31/50, OR = 2.9 (1.6-5.6); low grade: 14/38, OR = 1.8 (0.8-3.8);

benzene: 31/1, OR = 2.8 (1.8-730); thinner: 11/14, OR = 3.4 (1.4-10); trichloroethylene: 4/4, OR = 7.2 (1.3-42); turpentine: 51/7, OR = 3.3 (0.9-17); white spirit: 12/20, OR = 3.2 (1.3-8.3); degreaser: 7/4, OR = 11 (2.9-72); multivariate analysis - high grade OR = 3.5 (1.7-7.1); low grade, OR = 1.1 (0.5-2.7); organic solvents (for lymphocytic and well differentiated NHL), OR = 2.9 (1.3-6.6).

The mortality patterns of workers were defined in two styrene-butadiene rubber (SBR) plants with specific focus on hematopoietic and lymphatic malignancies (Meinhardt et al., 1982). It was a retrospective cohort mortality study that received information from 1,662 individuals (34,187 p/y) in plant A, 1,094 individuals in plant B (19,742 p/y) that gathered information about butadiene, styrene and benzene levels in the workplaces. Only white males with at least six months of non-management and non-administrative employment were included in their analysis. They found standard mortality ratio (SMR) = 155 (plant A) and 78 (plant B) for lymphatic and hematopoietic tissues in general (International Classification of Diseases - ICD 220-205) and SMR = 181 (plant A) and 132 (plant B) for lympho and reticulosarcoma (ICD 200). These excesses in mortality were not statistically significant. The authors concluded that their findings continue to suggest that the production or manufacturing of SBR may be associated with an excess of lymphatic and hematopoietic neoplasms.

A hospital-based case-control study conducted in Italy did not find positive results for industries (Franco & Ponte, 1983). In the chemical and pharmaceutical industry there were four exposed cases (EC), OR = 0.16; textiles, shoes and leather, 21 EC, OR = 0.50; paper and printing, three EC, OR = 0.90 and rubber and plastics, three EC, OR = 0.33. An important association was seen for woodworkers, with 14 EC and OR = 5.55 (2.39-12.85). The authors discussed the role of some agents used during the manufacture and treatment of wood, like benzene, chlorophenols, phenoxyacids and coal tar derivatives. In this study, cases were 282 NHL and 387 HD (347 male and 322 female patients of both sexes admitted to the Clinica Medica A. Ferrata - University of Pavia, from 1969 to 1980, diagnosed as malignant lymphoma. Controls were 757 male and 588 female patients admitted to an internal medicine unit in Pavia from 1975 to 1980. Occupations were defined as proposed by the *Annuario Statistico Italiano*. The analysis did not consider the NHL and the HD separately.

Based on the National Cancer Registry in England and Wales, a case-control study was

conducted with malignant lymphomas in male road transport workers aged 15 and over, diagnosed from 1973 to 1977. Control individuals were randomly chosen from other cancer patients, matched 1:1 by age, sex and region of residence. Among all lymphomas (426), 256 were recognized as NHL (ICD200 and 202). The results did not reach statistical significance, and the authors implied some positive findings to possible exposure to exhaust fumes. Thus, the following results were reported: ICD 200: drivers of buses and coaches. OR = 1.16 (0.60-2.26); drivers of other road passenger vehicles, OR = 0.95 (0.48-1.88); drivers of road goods vehicles, OR = 0.93 (0.71-1.22); bus conductors, OR = 0.57 (0.12-2.25); lorry drivers' mates, etc.: no cases: ICD 202: drivers of buses and coaches, OR = 1.63 (0.62-4.52); drivers of other road passenger vehicles, OR = 1.67 (0.68-4.32); drivers of road goods vehicles. OR = 0.90 (0.63-1.28); bus conductors, OR = 2.67 (0.64-15.6); lorry drivers' mates, etc.: no cases (Balaraman, 1983; Balaraman & McDowall, 1983).

All new cases of lymphoid malignancies diagnosed between October/ 1979 and December/ 1981 were selected among adult residents in six health districts in Yorkshire Health Region. There were 81 male and 77 female NHL, 48 HD, 66 chronic lymphocytic leukemia and 13 acute lymphoblastic leukemia cases. It was a hospital-based case-control study where the control group was performed by non-cancer hospital patients (162 male and 154 female for NHL cases), matched for age, sex and geographic area in a ratio of 1:1. Past occupations and selected exposures were analyzed and the following results were observed: occupational exposure to solvents (excluding benzene), OR = 1.52 (0.70-3.26) male and OR = 7.71 (1.24-47.93) female; petroleum industries. OR = 4.21 (0.54-32.79) male; solvent use as hobby. OR = 1.39 (0.30-6.46) male; benzene. OR = 0.49 (0.21-2.0) male; petrol products. OR = 0.59 (0.25-1.39) both sexes; hair sprays. OR = 1.49 (0.75-2.95) female; hair sprays. OR = 4.67 (1.50-13.63) female >65 years old. The number of exposed cases was not referred, nevertheless it can be inferred that they were small by looking at the large confidence intervals, including those statistically significant associations were seen among women (Bernard et al., 1984).

A new paper with the complete Yorkshire study data set was published including cases diagnosed until December/84 (Cartwright et al., 1988). The final rate between controls and cases was 1.7. At that time, 437 cases (244 males and 193 females) and 724 controls were studied. NHL cases were confirmed by the Regional

Histopathology Lymphoma Panel. The new analysis showed the following results: solvents, OR = 1.2 (0.9-1.5); glues, OR = 1.8 (1.2-2.6); and other non-significant associations in solvent related occupations, however with no mentioned OR value: chemical workers, printers, painters and decorators.

A population-based case-control study with all incident cases of myeloproliferative and lymphoproliferative diseases was done in Tasmania, Australia, with data from 1972 to 1980. Within that population there were 798 total cases, including 241 NHL (125 male and 116 female). The control group was selected, based on a 1:1 ratio. Individuals were mainly asked for both occupational and familial histories. Based on a few cases, it was seen a strong association between male foundry workers and NHL, OR = 8.0 (1.07-356.0). There were five exposed cases and no exposed controls among female hairdressers (Smith & Lickiss, 1980; Giles et al., 1984).

A population-based case-control study evaluated environmental chemical exposures as risk factors for leukemia and NHL (Everett et al., 1985). The selected subjects were 1,200 men with these diseases and controls by random dialing and from social security files. Exposure evaluation included a series of chemicals which are seen in the workplace or home. For NHL, the following odds ratio were noted for solvent-related exposures: lacquers/varnishes, OR = 1.24 ($p < 0.1$); engine exhaust, OR = 1.26 ($p < 0.05$); hydrocarbon coats. OR = 1.67 ($p < 0.1$); hydrocarbon cleaners, OR = 2.13 ($p < 0.001$); paint aerosols, OR = 1.28 ($p < 0.1$) and gasoline as a cleaning agent. OR = 1.29 ($p < 0.05$).

information was recorded from patients admitted to the Hospital of Varese, Italy to treat NHL and HD during 1984 and from non-cancer patients who were admitted to the same hospital. The eligibility criteria included living in that city for at least 15 years. There were 43 NHL (14 male and 28 female) and 46 HD cases and 89 controls. Some occupations were considered "exposed occupations": professors, farmers, metal-mechanics, chemists and textile workers. Their results showed an increased risk for metal-mechanics, RR = 1.98 (0.75-5.20) based on 13 exposed cases and for chemists, RR = 1.01 (0.27-3.74) based in four exposed cases. In this hospital-based case-control study the selected cases were neither prevalent nor incident cases in a defined period of time, and it does not seem that those cases have been representative of either general population or hospital population (Binaschi et al., 1985).

A death certificate-based case-control study of NHL and occupations with 501 and 569 male cases and controls, respectively, was carried out in North Carolina (Schumacher & Delzell, 1988). They observed an increased risk for occupations in rubber, plastics and synthetics' industries only for whites, based on four exposed cases and no exposed controls. Associations were neither seen for occupations with potential benzene exposure nor for chemical drugs and paint industries.

Two hundred and two male cases (ICD 200-202), age 20 and over and 666 age matched male controls, excluding smoke-related cancers and prostate cancer were selected from Missouri Cancer Registry between 1984 and 1985. Risk excess was found only among printers, OR = 2.72(0.96-7.69). No associations were observed with other solvent-related occupations (Brownson & Reif, 1988).

Another Swedish study was specifically designed to investigate the risk of NHL among men occupationally exposed to organic solvents. It was a hospital-based case-control study, where the case group was performed by a consecutive series of 167 men admitted between 1978-1981, in the Department of Oncology, University Hospital of Lund (Sweden) and the control group by 130 healthy men selected from the population registry. Exposure was defined by "handling organic solvents for at least one year daily". Categorization in five year age groups showed an ORM-H = 3.3(1.9-5.8); for supra-diaphragmatic tumors, OR = 6.5(3.2-13.3) and for other lymphoma presentations, OR = 2.3(1.3-4.3) (Olsson & Brandt, 1988).

In Hancock County, Ohio, all white male residents aged 15 or more who died during 1958-1983 with malignant lymphoma were enrolled in a case-control study. There were 61 NHL and 15 HD, who were matched with other deceased individuals, chosen through a stratified random sample by age at death and year of death, in a proportion of 4:1. No associations were found with solvent-related occupations or industries, in addition, with the small number of subjects and despite the rush to complete study, the authors discussed the limitations of such a death certificate-based case-control study, mainly because of the inaccuracies in the cause of death and the lack of occupational and industrial information (Dubrow et al., 1988).

All white U.S. Navy enlisted men during 1974-1983 were the subjects of a large cohort study (Garland et al., 1988). The unexposed group was performed by the U.S. population provided by SEER (Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results). The exposed group was com-

posed of 435,425 men 13,704,864 person-years from 80 U.S. Navy occupations. The NHL cases were reviewed by a board of specialists and classified according to the ICD 8th: (200.0, 200.1, 202.0-202.9); ICD 9th: 200.0, 200.1, 202.1, 202.8, 202.9. Sixty eight NHL cases were found in the exposed group. There were five cases among aviation structural mechanics, standard incidence ratio (SIR) = 1.5(0.5-3.5) and 1 case among machinery repairmen, SIR = 1.8 (0.0-10.0).

A nested case-control study was conducted within a cohort of 29,139 employed men from two chemical plants between 1940 and 1978 (Ott et al., 1989). The authors were looking for lymphatic and hematopoietic tissue cancers, and among all cases (129), 52 were identified as NHL from both underlying and contributory causes of death. Controls were selected from the total employee cohort according to a group-matched incidence density sampling in a 5:1 ratio. Elevated odds ratios were seen in the ethanol unit, OR = 5.4(1.5-19.5) based in five cases, and in two maintenance and construction groups, foremen and others, 11 cases, OR = 3.2(1.4-7.2) and instrument men, OR = 5.2(1-26.7), three cases. The authors discussed the role of the carcinogenic action of alkyl sulfates which originated from the reaction between alkenes and sulfuric acid to produce ethanol and isopropanol. They also discussed the difficulties in explaining the findings among foremen and others because of their heterogeneity and the lack of trends with employment duration. The authors found an OR = 1.2(two exposed cases) for less than five years and an OR = 1.6(three exposed cases) for more than five years of exposure.

The epidemiology of NHL in north-east Italy was evaluated through a hospital-based case-control study. There were 110 men and 98 women below age 80 with NHL, admitted from June 1983 to March 1988 at the Aviano Cancer Center and in all general hospitals in the province of Pordenone. Controls were 215 men and 186 women ages 17-79 with acute disorders, who were from the same hospitals and same catchment area. Exposures to 20 potentially carcinogenic chemical or physical agents were evaluated. For those activities with probable solvent exposure, they found an increased risk for chemical, OR = 1.64(0.88-3.06) and petrochemical workers, OR = 1.83(0.87-3.84) and suggested that employment in these industries may increase the probability of the onset of the disease. On the other hand, they had the following negative findings: dye and paint, OR = 0.72(0.36-1.44); plastic resin/glue, OR =

1.01 (0.46-2.23); benzene/solvents, **OR = 1.14** (0.57-2.28) and wood/furniture, **OR = 0.66** (0.37-1.19) (Franceschi et al., 1989).

Another Italian study did not show any association between **NHL** and a group of selected solvent related occupations and agents (chemical, petrochemical plastic resins/glues, solvents/benzene, oil, dyes/paints, rubber, printing and furniture). It was a hospital-based case-control study which included 153 incident cases of **NHL** (93 males and **60** females), 69 Hodgkin's disease and 110 multiple myeloma diagnosed in patients aged **15-74**, admitted to a network of teaching and general hospitals in the greater Milan area, from 1983 to 1988. Controls were 396 patients admitted to the same hospitals with acute conditions (LaVecchia et al., 1989).

Data from a previously selected control group for two other studies, from the population registry, were utilized in a new case-control study (Persson et al., 1989). Cases were **106** **NHL** (66 men and 40 women) and 54 HD cases, obtained from the Department of Oncology at Örebro Medical Centre Hospital, Sweden. They were diagnosed between 1964 and 1986, and were still alive in 1986, ranging in age from 20-80 years. Both groups answered posted questionnaires. In this hospital-based case-control study, solvent exposure was classified by five levels of intensity, for at least one year, taking into consideration a latency time of five to 45 years before diagnosis and time of selection for controls. There were seen some important increased risks: solvents, **OR = 2.0** (33/50 exposed cases/controls); thinner, **OR = 2.7** (15/ **16**); white spirit, **OR = 3.1** (13/ 12); trichloroethylene, **OR = 1.5** (8/14); styrene, **OR = 8.0** (3/1); painters, **OR = (3/0)**; plastic/rubber chemicals, **OR = 2.5** (9/10); carpenter/cabinet makers, **OR = 3.1** (10/9). The confidence intervals were not cited. The logistic **OR = 1.9** (90% 1.1-3.2) and **OR = 2.8** (90% 1.1-7.1) apply to solvent exposure to carpenters and cabinet makers, respectively.

A new study was conducted (Persson et al., 1993) with the same planning. Cases were 93 **NHL** and **31** HD occurred in men living in Ostergötland, Jonköping and Kalmar counties, obtained from the Regional Cancer Registry at the University Hospital in Linköping, diagnosed between 1975 and 1984, alive in 1986, and aged 20-80. At this time, only men were studied. Two hundred and four referent individuals were drawn from the population registry. In that study, occupational exposure to solvents revealed an **OR = 1.2** (28/53 exposed cases/exposed controls) and an **OR = 1.7** and an **ORlog = 1.1** (0.6-2.2) (24/34), when intensity

category levels 2-5 X 0-1 were analyzed: white spirit, **OR = 1.6** (14/20); aviation gasoline, **OR = 3.0** (4/3). For non-occupational exposure was seen an **OR = 3.4** (3/2). Carpenters and cabinet makers had an **OR = 1.0** and an **ORlog = 0.9** (0.4-2.1) (11/25), which means a conflicting result in regards to the former investigation.

A population-based case-control study was primarily designed for looking for associations between **NHL** occurrence and specific agents in farm practices. Cases were 201 men aged 21 or older in 66 counties of eastern Nebraska, diagnosed with **NHL** from 1983 to 1986. They were identified through the Nebraska Lymphoma Study Group Registry and area hospitals and physicians, and reviewed by a pathologist. Controls were 725 subjects selected from residents of the same area, matched by age, race and vital status. Both groups were interviewed by telephone. For exposure to chlorinated hydrocarbons an **OR = 1.9** (0.8-2.3) was observed (Weisenburger et al., 1990).

The relationship of occupational risks and hematological malignancies development were evaluated through a hospital-based case-control study (Pasqualetti et al., 1991). They selected **108 NHL** within 620 neoplasm hospital patients aged 24-85, and 2:1 sex and age matched hospital controls with "medical diseases", except cancer and congenital diseases, from the same area as the cases. On one hand, the authors found statistically significant associations between hematological malignancies in general and industrial activities, **OR = 2.97** (1.98-4.46), exposure to aromatic hydrocarbons, **OR = 2.15** (1.39-3.32), dyes and inks, **OR = 1.28** (1.11-1.99), mineral oils, **OR = 2.59** (1.75-3.84) and paints and related products, **OR = 1.55** (1.06-2.26). On the other hand, when they analyzed specifically the **NHL subset**, only an association with mineral oils was seen, **OR = 3.4** (1.65-7.38). They have found a lack of association between **NHL** and other potential exposures to solvents such as auto mechanics, railroad workers, or specific exposures to cetones, aliphatic hydrocarbons, chlorinated hydrocarbons, and dye, paints and inks.

With the Danish Cancer Registry data, individuals aged 20-64 from 1970 (census data on industry and occupations) were followed up for cancer incidence until 1980 (Skov & Lynge, 1991). **NHL** cases were 1,167 in men and 849 in women during that period, distributed among 492 male and **447** female occupational groups. Statistically significant associations were not obtained, however it was suggested that potential exposure to chemical agents may be implicated in the increased risk for **NHL** based

mainly in the findings of wood working (male), $RR = 1.15 (0.87-1.52)$; chemists (female), $RR = 2.32 (0.85-5.04)$ and hairdressers (female), $RR = 2.01 (0.81-4.14)$.

Incident cases of NHL (572) and leukemia (520) among white men diagnosed between 1980 and 1983 in Iowa and Minnesota were selected for a population-based case-control study in the USA (Linos et al., 1991). Diagnoses were reviewed by a panel of pathologists. Controls were frequency-matched by year of birth, vital status, state of residence and year of death, by a two-stage random digit dialing (<65 years) and from Health Care Finance Administration (65 years). Questionnaires were applied to study subjects or their next-of-kin, and exposure was defined as the location of residence within 3.2 and within 0.8 Km from a factory. Among the first ones, were factories where organic solvents are handled. In the chemical plant there were 18 EC, $RR = 1.0 (0.6-1.9)$, in the petroleum industry, 14 EC, $RR = 1.5 (0.7-3.2)$ and in the rubber plant, 11 EC, $RR = 0.6 (0.3-1.3)$.

In an ecological study, information about lympho-hematopoietic neoplasm incidence in 22 counties in the UK (1984/1988) was crossed to car ownership by county (1981) from Great Britain Population Census and Transport Statistics data. There were 2,415 low grade and 2,550 high grade NHL within a total of 21,072 neoplasms. The Spearman rank correlation coefficients showed a statistically significant association between low grade NHL incidence and cars per household ($0.66 p < 0.001$) and cars per thousands ($0.68 p < 0.001$). No association was seen for high grade NHL. The author called for reservation about these preliminary outcomes from data based on geographical correlation, but implied that if these are true, the non-occupational low exposure to benzene from petrol combustion and petrol evaporation may be playing an important role (Wolff, 1992).

A hospital-based case-control study, where cases were all newly NHL diagnosed patients, from 1980 to 1982 was carried out among residents of the Boston Metropolitan Area who were treated in one of nine participating hospitals (Scherr et al., 1992). The control group was composed of individuals matched by age, sex, town and precinct of residence, randomly selected from the town residence list. Cases were made up of 152 males and 151 females, with controls for the 303 individuals. Diagnoses were reviewed by a panel of pathologists, who utilized Rappaport (modified) and International Working Formulation NHL classifications.

Questionnaires were directly applied to cases (67%), to cases' proxies (31%) and to cases' guardians (2%). No information was mentioned regarding distribution of these interviews within the control group. The main results, related to solvent exposures were: gasoline or kerosene, $OR = 1.0 (0.6-1.7)$; benzene, $OR = 1.2 (0.5-2.6)$; chlorinated solvents, $OR = 1.2 (0.8-1.8)$; metal industry, $OR = 1.2 (0.6-2.5)$; machinery, $OR = 0.8 (0.4-1.4)$; shipbuilding, auto, $OR = 1.0 (0.6-1.7)$; chemicals, drugs and paints, $OR = 0.3 (0.1-0.9)$; leather, $OR = 2.1 (0.9-4.8)$; dry cleaning, $OR = 1.6 (0.6-4.0)$; painter and plasterer, $OR = 6.0 (0.9-38)$; carpenter, brick and stone mason, plumber and roofer, $OR = 12.0 (2.0-72)$; airplane or auto mechanic, gas station attendant, $OR = 1.4 (0.6-3.6)$.

Cancer incidence from 1971 to 1984 was defined using the Swedish Cancer-Environment Registry, with occupational information from the 1970 census (Eriksson et al., 1992). At the end of the follow up the authors got 1,082 NHI, cases (830 men 252 women), 317 HD and 684 MM classified according the ICD 7th 200-203. Among all occupational groups with potential exposure to solvents, carpenters (149 OC) yielded a $SIR = 1.2 (1.0-1.5)$.

A nested case-control study was carried out with fatal lymphatic and hematopoietic malignancies which occurred in male workers of eight North American styrene-butadiene plants between 1943-1982. The original cohort had 13,686 workers and yielded 15 NHI, cases among 59 lymphohematopoietic cancers. The control group was performed by 193 individuals, matched by year of hire, date of death, age and duration of work, selected from the same cohort with causes of death other than neoplasms. A job exposure matrix (JEM) was constructed by a panel of four chemical engineers who classified the exposure to styrene and to butadiene using data from personal records. For styrene exposure an $OR = 1.39 (0.13-3.92)$ was seen for lymphosarcoma and an $OR = 2.42 (0.50-11.6)$ for other lymphomas, which include myeloma (Santos-Burgoa et al., 1992). Epidemiologic studies pertaining to the possible relation between exposure to 1,3-butadiene and the occurrence of lymphatic and hematopoietic cancer among styrene-butadiene rubber and butadiene production workers were reviewed. In the aggregate data, there were 20 observed vs. 17.9 expected deaths from lymphosarcoma cases. In general, it was concluded that there is no support for a causal relationship for such exposures (Cole et al., 1993).

An industry-based case-control study was carried out in Finland (Partanen et al.,

1993). Cases were malignant lymphomas and leukemias notified to the Finnish Cancer Registry, diagnosed in male woodworkers of 35 plants, within a cohort of 7,307 workers, between 1957-1982. Controls (52 for the NHL cases) were matched by year of birth and survival/non-survival status in 1983, selected from the same cohort. Only eight NHL cases were found (ICD 200, 202). Individual exposures to solvents and to other agents were reconstructed using a plant/period-specific JEM (cases and controls). Also interviews of persons at the plants were performed and questionnaires were applied (only to cases or their next-of-kin). For unidentified solvents, leukemias and lymphomas pooled (four exposed cases) produced an OR = 5.62 (0.99-32.0) and adjustment for formaldehyde exposure showed an OR = 5.07 (0.40-63.5). Two exposed cases and no exposed controls were seen when NHL were analyzed separately.

White men with NHL reported to the Iowa State Health Registry, between 1981 to 1983 and between 1980 to 1982 at a network of hospitals in Minnesota were included in a population-based case-control study (Blair et al., 1993). The 1,245 control individuals were frequency matched with the 622 NHL cases by age, year of death for deceased cases, and state, from random digit dialing, medicare files and listings of death. Questionnaires were directly applied to cases and controls or their surrogates and included information about job titles and industries, which were further evaluated by an industrial hygienist, who decided the probability of exposure (four levels) and intensity of exposure (three levels). The authors concluded that industrial exposures are not a major contributor to the etiology of NHL. Some important findings were: painting/paper hanging, OR = 1.9 (0.9-3.8); petroleum refining, OR = 1.6 (0.5-5.8); printing, OR = 1.5 (0.4-5.1); paints, OR = 1.1 (0.9-1.5); asphalt and creosote, OR = 1.0 (0.7-1.6); gasoline and diesel exhausts, OR = 1.0 (0.8-1.3). This study tried to find a relationship between low and high exposures and sub-types of the disease, classified as follicular or diffuse. It was seen that the risk of NHL rose slightly with increasing levels of exposure to benzene and other solvents. The main results were: benzene, OR = 1.1 (0.9-1.4); OR = 1.3 (0.9-1.9) for low level/follicular; OR = 1.9 (0.7-5.3) for high/follicular; OR = 1.2 (0.8-1.8) for low/diffuse; OR = 1.8 (0.6-5.4) for high/diffuse; solvents other than benzene OR = 0.9 (0.9-1.4); OR = 1.4 (0.9-2.0) for low/follicular; OR = 1.1 (0.4-2.7) for high/follicular; OR = 1.0 (0.7-1.5) for low/diffuse and OR = 2.4 (1.2-5.0) for high/diffuse.

A large cohort study linked information about cancer incidence from 1961 to 1979 using the Swedish Cancer-Environment Registry with occupational information from the 1960 census (Linnet et al., 1993). There were 4,496 observed cases among employed Swedish men distributed among industrial and occupational categories, which derived from international standards. The most important associations regarding solvent exposure were seen in the shoe repair industry: 23 cases, SIR = 1.8 ($p < 0.05$); shoemakers: 23 cases, SIR = 1.7 ($p < 0.05$); porcelain and earthenware: 14 cases, SIR = 1.9 ($p < 0.05$); furniture maker: 44 cases, SIR = 1.3 ($p < 0.01$) and lorry drivers: 42 cases, SIR = 1.4 ($p < 0.01$). Other well known solvent related industries and occupations failed to show associations.

The same strategy was applied to study the female workers (Linnet et al., 1994). They observed 1,174 cases of NHL in employed Swedish women. At that time, the following results were verified: furniture and finishing industry: four cases, SIR = 1.5; graphics industry and publishing business: 15 cases, SIR = 0.7; rubber industry: five cases, SIR = 1.1; chemical industry: nine cases, SIR = 0.8; machine and electronics industry: 26 cases, SIR = 0.8; shoe and leather workers: 10 cases, SIR = 1.4.

A death certificate-based case-control study (Massoudi, 1994; Massoudi et al., 1997) was done in Kanawha County (West Virginia). Cases were 435 lymphatic and hematopoietic neoplasms in white male aged 23-96 who had died between 1965-1990. Among them there were 106 NHL (ICD 9th 200, 202) reviewed by a pathologist. Industries and occupations were obtained from death certificates and validated by interviewing next-of-kin. Three categories of exposure were defined: chemical manufacturing workers, those exposed to chemicals at other jobs, and those not exposed. The association between NHL and work in chemical industries was analyzed (chemical workers versus not exposed): crude analysis, OR = 1.52 (0.8-2.8); age < 65 OR = 3.11 (1.1-8.8); age 65 OR = 0.97 (0.5-2.1).

Another large cohort study was developed in Denmark (Kolstad et al., 1994). The exposed group consisted of 53,720 male workers (584,556 persons/year) employed any time from 1964 to 1988 in 386 reinforced plastic industry and resident in Denmark after 01/01/70, followed up until 12/31/89. The non-exposed group was composed of individuals from the general population. Exposure to styrene was evaluated using 2,473 personal air samples from work sites during 1964-1970, 1971-1975 and 1976-1988 with the mean styrene levels of

180, 88 and 43 ppm (1.814 were sampled from companies included in the study). Among the companies with 1-49 % of workers in reinforced plastics production the following results were seen: < 10 years since 1st employment: 19 observed cases (OC), SIR = 2.35 (1.42-3.67); 10 years: 17 OC, SIR = 1.23 (0.71-1.98). Among those companies with 50-100 % of workers in reinforced plastics production different results were found: <10 years since 1st employment: 2 OC, SIR = 0.43 (0.05-1.57); 10 years: four OC, SIR = 0.79 (0.22-2.02). When all companies were evaluated together, SIR was 1.33 (0.96-1.80) with 42 OC. The analysis per year of the 1st employment did not show significant findings: 1964-1970, 21 OC, SIR = 1.28 (0.79-1.96); 1971-1975, 10 SIR = 1.19 (0.57-2.18); 1976-1988, 11 OC, SIR = 1.64 (0.82-2.94).

Based on death certificates, a case-control study where cases were 23,890 NHL deaths was done among residents from 24 American states between 1984-1989 (Figgs et al., 1995). There were five non-cancer death controls per case, totaling 119,450 individuals. Cases were classified according to the ICD 9th, categories 200 and 202 (except 202.3 and 202.6). Exposure was defined as industries and occupations obtained from death certificates. Occupations with certain or potential exposure to solvents were stratified for race. For white men, aircraft mechanics had an OR = 2.5 (1.1-6.0) with eight exposed cases; farm equipment mechanics, seven exposed cases, OR = 2.1 (0.9-5.3); electronic repairs, 12 exposed cases, OR = 2.1 (1.1-4.1); miscellaneous electronic and electrical repairs, 10 exposed cases, OR = 2.0 (1.0-4.3); painters, 65 exposed cases, OR = 0.6 (0.5-0.8). For black men, only ship/boat building and repair industry was important in relation to solvent exposure and had seven exposed cases and an OR = 2.9 (1.1-7.9).

A case-control study in Lyon, France, evaluated cases of hematological malignancies, which included 52 NHL of both sexes, aged 30-74 and diagnosed between January/1981 and December/1987 in two hospitals (Hours et al., 1995). Control subjects were non-cancer and non-occupationally diseased patients, 1:1 matched by sex, age and nationality, from the same hospitals. Occupational exposure to 320 compounds was verified using questionnaires plus evaluation by experts in chemistry and occupational medicine. An OR = 2.1 (p = 0.23) based on 13 exposed cases was seen. For exposure to mononuclear aromatic hydrocarbons which include benzene, An OR = 14.86 (p < 0.01) was found for exposure to a mixture of benzene, toluene and xylene (BTX) based in six ex-

posed cases. Polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbon had (30 EC), OR = 0.76. Exposure to inks (20 EC) yielded an OR = 2.47 (p = 0.02) and varnish and paints exposure (six EC), OR = 2.55 (p = 0.08).

In a small cohort mortality study, 338 male employees (3.813p/y) of the fleet maintenance division of the DC's Department of Public Works (DPW), employed for at least one year between 1977-1991 were followed up (Hunting et al., 1995). Nine cancers and three lymphatic and hematopoietic deaths (one NHL death) were found. Potential exposure to fuels and solvents was classified as low, medium or high, according to personal records data and DPW and union representatives discussion. The three lymphatic and hematopoietic cancers showed a SMR = 4.22 (0.87-12.34) and the NHL case, a SMR = 2.57 (0.06-14.27).

A very large multicenter retrospective study was conducted within a cohort of Chinese workers (Dosemeci et al., 1994; Travis et al., 1994; Yin et al., 1996). The exposed group was composed of 74,828 workers employed from 1972 to 1987 in 672 factories in 12 Chinese cities and the unexposed were 35,805 workers from 109 factories in the same period and places. They analyzed all available data: work units; job titles; monitoring data; list of raw material and Factory products; engineering control; personal protective equipment and with them, benzene exposure in parts per million was estimated. Seventeen exposed deaths, RR = 4.5 (1.3-28.4) and 20 exposed cases, RR = 3.5 (1.3-14.9) were found. In this study, the limitation was the lack of homogeneity of the data from too many different plants.

In a nested case-control study in Canada, cases were all male NHL deaths from a cohort of petroleum workers and controls were selected from the same cohort matched by a decade of birth in a proportion of 4:1 (Schnatter et al., 1996). Of a total of 31 lympho-haematopoietic cancers, eight were NHL. Personal records plus evaluation by experts in industrial hygiene were utilized to estimate benzene and the total hydrocarbon exposures in ppm. No association was found between the low level exposures and mortality by NHL. The size and consequently the power of this study were seen as important limitations.

Also in Canada, a large registry-based case-control study was developed. Lymphoma plus 18 other types of neoplasia were studied to generate a hypothesis about the occupational causes of cancer (Fritschi & Siemiatycki, 1996). Subjects were 215 men aged 35-70, with a new histologically confirmed NHL diagnosed be-

tween 1979-1985 and residing in Montreal. The control group consisted of 2,357 other cancer patients, excluding lung cancer, and by 533 individuals selected from an electoral list or by random digit dialing. A structured questionnaire plus evaluation by a team of chemists and industrial hygienists were used to define exposure. Exposure was categorized as possible, probable and definite, and the frequency of exposure defined as <5%, 5-30% and >30%. The concentration of the agent at the workplace was also analyzed. These three measures were combined, producing three groups: unexposed, non-substantial and substantially exposed. Occupations and industries were also classified. No association was found. There were 20 cases exposed to benzene and classified as the non-substantial exposed group. OR = 0.7 (0.4-1.1) and six in the substantial exposed group, OR = 0.8 (0.3-2.1). For solvents in general, classified as low level, there were 26 EC, OR = 0.6 (0.4-1.0) and for high level exposure, 48 EC. OR = 0.9 (0.6-1.3). Among carpenters, there was no case with 1-9 years of exposure and four EC. OR = 0.8 (0.3-2.2) for those with 10 years or more in that occupation. In the furniture industry: 1-9 years, one EC, OR = 0.4 (0.1-3.4); 10 years or more: three EC, OR = 1.6 (0.4-6.1). Finally, among the rubber and plastic workers: 1-9 years: four EC, OR = 3.6 (0.9-15.0); 10+ years: one EC, OR = 9.0 (0.6-148.0).

Holly et al. (1997) developed a case-control study. Cases were 312 NHL among homosexual men, and controls were also homosexual men, matched by age within five years and county of residence. Chemical and occupational exposures were evaluated using questionnaires. The authors concluded that among the HIV positive men, occupational exposures were of brief duration and did not account for the development of the NHL cases.

One of the most important studies was developed by Tatham et al. (1997) using data from eight cancer registries in the United States between 1984 and 1988. It was a population-based case-control study, where the 1,048 NHL cases in men were grouped by subtypes defined by a panel of pathologists. There were 185 small cell diffuse lymphomas; 268 follicular lymphomas and 526 large cell diffuse lymphomas. Controls were 1,659 individuals matched by date of birth (within five years) through random digit dialing. All individuals were interviewed by telephone. Time of exposure for all jobs with known dates were defined within 10 years and more than 10 years. An OR = 0.91 (0.75-1.10) was seen for chlorinated hydrocarbons. For solvent exposure, the follow-

ing results were found: all NHL subtypes, OR = 1.10 (0.90-1.30); small cell diffuse, OR = 1.60 (1.10-2.20); small cell diffuse, 9 years of exposure, OR = 1.50 (0.99-2.20); small cell diffuse, > 9 years of exposure, OR = 1.70 (1.10-2.60); small cell diffuse, 10 years since first exposure, OR = 3.00 (1.60-5.80); small cell diffuse, > 10 years since first exposure, OR = 1.50 (1.00-2.10); follicular, OR = 1.0 (0.79-1.40); large cell diffuse, OR = 0.97 (0.79-1.20).

Discussion

In total, 45 studies were reviewed. Twenty one (46.7%) were conducted in Europe. This issue was a concern mainly in Sweden where eight of these studies were done, in Italy five studies and four in the United Kingdom. In North America, 20 studies (44.4%) were done in the United States and two (4.4%) in Canada. The remaining two studies came from Australia and China. Only one study focused exclusively on women. In 25 studies (55.5%) only men were selected and 19 (42.2%) included both sexes. This difference could be partially explained by the fact that more male workers have an opportunity to be exposed to organic solvents. Nevertheless, most occupational cancer epidemiologic research has focused on white men. The reasons for excluding women and minorities from consideration in this kind of study are numerous and often legitimate. Small numbers of subjects or events, lower exposures and difficulty in tracing were the reasons most commonly given. However, a general lack of interest or lack of consideration are also possible reasons (Zahm et al., 1994).

Since the outcome of these studies is a rare disease, it was not a surprise that the case-control design had been chosen in 32 studies (71.1%). Among them, hospital based case-control studies were most often conducted, 12 (37.5%), followed by the population case-control design, nine (28.1%), death certificate-based, four (12.5%), nested case-control, four (12.5%) and registry-based case-control, three (9.4%). Other designs were 10 (22.2%) cohort studies, two ecologic (4.4%) and one clinical case series (2.2%). The number of cases ranged from one to 23,890 individuals.

In 20 studies (44.4%), cases of NHL were reviewed by a pathologist or by a panel of pathologists and in 25 (55.6%) this review was not done. The objective of most studies was to evaluate lymphatic and hematopoietic malignancies, including leukemia, myeloma, HD and NHL. NHL was mostly classified as a whole

disease which included all sub-types. Three studies differentiated reticulum cell sarcomas and lymphosarcomas, one study classified it according to the severity of the disease as low or high grade. Two studies made the distinction between low and high grades, and/or differentiated between diffuse and follicular patterns of the tumor. In comparing studies where pathologists reviewed slides with studies having no slide review, there was no difference between the results. This issue was the target point of a review of 668 slides of NHL, and an agreement of 93% was observed between reported diagnosis and the panel review. It was concluded that depending on the degree of potential bias allowable in the study being undertaken, panel review to confirm diagnoses of NHL may not be necessary and panel review to develop subtypes of NHL may not be useful in epidemiologic studies, especially relative to the time and cost involved (Dick et al., 1987). As mentioned, most studies did not use the current classification systems to differentiate various histologies of NHL. One reason for not using a detailed classification scheme may be the size of the study that would be required to have a sufficient number of cases or even a few of the various histologies that would achieve statistical significance for a twofold relative risk or less (Scherr & Mueller, 1996).

Twenty seven (60.0%) studies had information about exposure to specific agents, but only five (11.1%) were based on environmental measurements. Most studies used job titles (62.2%) and/or industries (46.6%) as the measure of the exposure. Twenty two studies (48.9%) got information from questionnaires and five (11.1%) used chemistry or industrial hygiene expert judgments to complete the available information. This latter procedure has been generally recognized as the reference method for exposure evaluation, at least for population-based case-control studies (Bouyer & Hémon, 1993; Stiicker et al., 1993).

In 34 studies of a total of 41 (82.9%), 68 non-statistically significant associations were found. Two studies published only statistically significant associations. No associations were seen in 29 of 39 studies (74.3%) which referred to negative results. It is impossible to enumerate all of them, because some of these associations were not pointed out by the authors.

Fifty four statistically significant associations between solvent exposure or related occupations or industries were reported in 25 studies (55.5%). For each study, these associations were seen: (1) lymphosarcoma and proximity with chemical industry; (2) benzene and

related occupations; (3) printing; (4) styrene, trichloroethylene, perchloroethylene, benzene, other solvents and solvents plus chlorophenols and phenoxi acids; (5) solvents (female); (6) wood industry; (7) lacquers and varnish, engine exhaust, hydrocarbon coats and cleaners, paint aerosols and gasoline as a cleaning agent; (8) glues; (9) rubber, plastics and synthetics; (10) solvents; (11) ethanol unit, foremen and instrument men; (12) solvents and carpenters; (13) mineral oil; (14) car per household and car per thousands; (15) carpenters and other similar; (16) carpenters; (17) high exposure to solvents and diffuse NHL; (18) shoe workers, porcelain workers, furniture workers and lorry drivers; (19) organic solvents; (20) chemical workers less than 65 years; (21) styrene less than 10 years of exposure with 1-49% of workers in production section; (22) mechanics, electronic and electrical repairs and ship building; (23) mixture of benzene, toluene and xylene and inks; (24) benzene; (25) solvents and small cell diffuse.

In a review of the epidemiology of the occupational factors of chemically induced lymphoid and hemopoietic cancers, the difficulties associated with such a review are recognized. They are mainly related to both disease and exposure definitions. However, consistent findings were reported for occupations with benzene exposure (Tsongas, 1985). Another review about leukemia and lymphoma risks derived from solvents pointed out that a relation between solvent exposure and malignant lymphomas has been called into question (Brandt, 1987). The author referred the contradictory results from specific studies and mentioned that the reasons are obscure. It was explained that, apparently, the studies which failed to find an association were based on register data or occupational titles, suggesting the need for further investigations in this field.

Some occupations were shown to be related with NHL as in the cases of the rubber industry (Monson & Nakano, 1976; Wilcosky et al., 1981; Delzel & Monson, 1984); petroleum refining workers (Thomas et al., 1982; Wen et al., 1983; Delzell et al., 1988); chemists (Li et al., 1969; Searle et al., 1978; Olin, 1978; Olin & Ahlbom, 1980; Rinsky et al., 1988); printers (Zoloth et al., 1986); highway workers (Mazlish et al., 1988); dry cleaners (Blair et al., 1990) and heavy machinery production workers (Mallin et al., 1986). The etiologic agents responsible for these excess have not been identified definitively, but all occupations have exposure to organic solvents in common (Zahm, 1996).

Beyond the millions of industrial workers with potential exposure to solvents, the **general** population is also potentially exposed through contact with commercial products and contaminated **drinking** water. Because exposures have increased over the same time period **as** the increase in NHL, it is plausible that solvents may have contributed to rising incidence (Ries et al., 1994). Besides, a **low** risk was observed for all lympho-hematopoietic cancers, including NHL in Circumpolar Inuit, which suggested that it may reflect protective environment or genetic factors (Lanier & Alberts, 1996).

Twenty three studies (**51.1%**) concluded either that there was no association, or that there was no need for future investigations, even if there was the possibility of relationship. **Some** studies suggested that organic solvents can **act** as a risk factor for **NHL** development. It was noticed in this review that statistical significance was more frequently shown in studies where solvent exposure was more accurately defined, OR = **5.2** (1.11-26.19) – exposure to organics solvents was specifically evaluated: yes/ no; results with statistically significance: yes/ no. Eighteen such studies, 13(72.2%) defined or suggested organic solvents as possible **risk** factors for **NHL**.

Tablet

Studies on non-Hodgkin's lymphoma in relation to potential occupational organic solvents exposure.

Authors/year/ country	Design	Source population	Study Subjects	Disease Classification	Exposure	Results
1- Capurro, 1979. USA	Clinical case series	A community of Caucasian people from 1968 to 1974	117 individuals	Lymphoma	Solvent exposure measured in the environment and in the blood of the residents	23 cases of cancer 8 of them were lymphoma, considering specifically the 3 deaths due to lymphosarcoma in a 6 year period. O/E = 3/0 0187 = 160 fold
2- Vianna & Polan, 1979, USA	Cohort mortality	All deaths male ≥ age 20 with RCS, LS or HD from death certificates of New York State, excluding New York City, from 1950 to 1969	146 RCS, 353 LS and 267 HD	RCS, LS and HD	Benzene - related occupations	RCS RR = 1.6; LS RR = 2.1, HD RR = 1.6 For 45 years old and over RCS O/E = 1.7 p<0.01 LS O/E = 2.1 p<0.01 HD O/E = 1.9 p<0.01
3- Cantor & Fraumeni. 1980. USA	Ecological	Age adjusted mortality rates for NHL in counties of the contiguous U.S.	3,056 counties	ICD 200, 202 and 205	Proportion of printing, chemical, petroleum, furniture, electrical, machinery and rubber industries per each county	Associations in a multiple regression analysis for white males and printing (β significant at p<0.025) petrochemicals and rubber products
4- Hardell et al., 1981 Sweden	Hospital- based case- control	Cases all men assisted in the Dep Of Oncology in Umea (catchment area), 25-85 years old. controls 8 matched (age, sex, residence) controls for each living case and 10 matched (age, sex, residence and year of death) from the National Population Registry	Cases 109 NHL and 60 HD; controls: 338	Lukes-Collins (modified)	Self administered questionnaires, supplemented by telephone, high and low grade solvent exposure	low grade RR = 1.2 (0.5-2.6); high grade (Styrene, trichloroethylene, perchloroethylene, benzene) RR = 4.6 (1.9-11.4), other RR = 2.8 (1.6-4.8); high + low RR = 2.4 (1.5-3.8); solvents + chlorophenols and phenoxy acids RR = 8.5 (4.4-17.2)
5- Meinhardt et al., 1982, USA	Cohort mortality	Workers in 2 styrene- butadiene rubber plants	Plant A 1662 indiv. 34,187 p/y Plant B: 1094 indiv 19,742 ply	Hematopoi- etic and lymphatic malignancies ICD 200-205	Butadiene, styrene and benzene environmental measures	Lymphatic and hematopoietic tissues (220-205) SMR = 155 (plant A) and 78 (plant B); lympho and reticulosar- coma (200). SMR = 181 (plant A) and 132 (plant B). Excess mortality not statistically significant

Table 1 (cont.)

Authors/year/ country	Design	Source population	Study Subjects	Disease Classification	Exposure	Results
6- Balarajan, 1983. UK	Registry- based case control	Cases: malignant lymphomas in men aged 15 and over, from 1973 to 1977 collected at the National Cancer Registry; controls: randomly chosen from other cancers, matched 1:1 by age, sex and region of residence	Cases: 426 lymphomas (256 NHL); controls: 256	ICD 8th : 200 and 202	Road transport workers	ICD 200: drivers of buses and coaches. OR = 1.16 (0.60-2.26); driven of other road passenger vehicles: OR = 0.95 (0.48-1.88); drivers of road goods vehicles: OR = 0.93 (0.71 1.22); bus conductors: OR = 0.57 (0.12-2.25); lorry drivers' mates, etc.. no cases; ICD 202: drivers of buses and coaches: OR = 1.63 (0.62-4.52); drivers of other road passenger vehicles: OR = 1.67 (0.68-4.32); drivers of road goods vehicles: OR = 0.90 (0.63-1.28); bus conductors: OR = 2.67 (0.64-15.6); lorry drivers' mates, etc.. no cases
7- Franco & Ponte. 1983. Italy	Hospital- based case-control	Cases: patients of both sexes admitted to the Clinica Medica A. Ferrata - University of Pavia. from 1969 to 1980, diagnosed as malignant lymphoma; controls: patients admitted to an internal medicine unit in Pavia from 1975 to 1980	Cases: 282 NHL and 387 HO (347 male and 322 female; controls: 757 male and 588 female	NHL	Occupations as proposed by the Annuario Statistico Italiano	Chemical and pharmaceutical: 4 EC, OR = 0.16; Textiles, shoes and leather 21 EC, OR = 0.50; Paper and printing: 3 EC, OR = 0.90; rubber and plastics: 3 EC. OR = 0.33; wood: 14 EC, OR = 5.55 (2.39-12.85)
8- Bernard et al., 1984. UK	Hospital- based case-control	Cases: all new cases diagnosed between October/1979 and December/1981 in adult residents in six health districts in Yorkshire Health Region; controls: 1:1 hospital patients, matched for age, sex and geographic area	Cases: 81 male and 77 female NHL; 48 HD; 66 CLL; 13 ALL controls: 162 male and 154 female patients for NHL cases	NHL	Questionnaires applied by one interviewer; past occupations and selected exposures	Occupational solvents (excluding benzene): OR = 1.52 (0.70-3.26) male; OR = 7.71 (1.24- 47.93) female; petroleum industries: OR = 4.21 (0.54-32.79) male; solvent use as hobby: OR = 1.39 (0.30-6.46) male; benzene: OR = 0.49 (0.21-2.0) male; petrol products: OR = 0.59 (0.25- 1.39) both sex; hair sprays: OR = 1.49 (0.75- 2.95) female; hair sprays: OR = 4.67 (1.50-13.63) female >65 years old
9- Giles et al., 1984, Australia	Population- based case- control	Cases: all incident cases of myeloproliferative and lymphoproliferative diseases in Tasmania from 1972 to 1980: controls: 1:1 age and sex matched from electoral rolls and Child and School Health Services	Cases: 798 total cases, 241 NHL (125 male and 116 female); controls: 241	All cases reviewed by an oncologist, a hematologist and a pathologist	Personal interview; occupations	Male foundry workers: OR = 8.0 (1.07-356.0); female hairdressers: 5 exposed cases and no exposed controls

Tablet (cont.)

Authors/year/ country	Design	Source population	Study Subjects	Disease Classification	Exposure	Results
10- Everett et al., 1985, USA	Population- based case- control	Cases: men with NHL and leukemia; controls: selected by random dialing and from social security files	Cases: 1200 controls: not cited	NHL	Personal interview: exposure evaluation to a series of chemicals in the workplace or home	Lacquers/varnishes: OR = 1.24 p < 0.1; engine exhaust: OR = 1.26 p < 0.05; hydrocarbon coats: OR = 1.67 p < 0.1; hydrocarbon cleaners: OR = 2.13 p < 0.001; paint aerosols: OR = 1.28 p < 0.1; gasoline as a cleaning agent: OR = 1.29 p < 0.05
11- Binaschi et al., 1985, Italy	Hospital- based case- control	Cases: patients admitted to the Hospital of Varese to treat NHL and HD during 1984, living in that city for at least 15 years; controls: patients admitted to the same hospital to treat other non-cancer diseases	Cases: 43 NHC (14 male and 28 female) and 46 HD; controls: 89	NHL (Kiel)	Personal interview; occupations	Metal-mechanics: RR = 1.98 (0.75-5.20) 13 EC, chemists: RR = 1.01 (0.27-3.74) 4 EC
12- Schumacher & Deizell, 1988, USA	Death certificate- based case- control	Cases: men who died from age 35 to 75, between 1968-1970; 1975- 1977; 1980-1982; controls: other non-cancer deaths, frequency matched by age, year of death and race, 1:1 whites and 2:1 blacks	Cases: 501 controls: 569	ICD 200-202	Occupations	Benzene, whites OR = 0.77 (0.56-1.07); blacks OR = 0.94 (0.47-1.87) chemicals, drugs and paints: whites OR = 0.67 (0.3-1.51); blacks 1 exposed case, no exposed control (0.21-) rubber, plastics and synthetics: whites 4 exposed cases, no exposed controls (1.29-) fuel, whites OR = 0.97 (0.19-5.02) blacks no cases and no controls furniture whites OR = 0.74 (0.43-1.26)
13- Brownson & Reif, 1988, USA	Cancer registry- based case- control	Cases: males, age 20 and over from Missouri Cancer Registry (1984-1985); controls: 3 age matched white males to each case from the same source excluding smoke-related cancers and prostate cancer	Cases: 222 controls: 666	ICD 200-202	Usual occupation and industries collected by Missouri Center Registry	Printers, OR = 2.72 (0.96-7.69); no associations were found with other solvent-related occupations
14- Olsson & Brandt, 1988, Sweden	Hospital- based case- control	Cases: a consecutive series of men admitted in 1978-1981, in the Department of Oncology, University Hospital, Lund; controls: two groups of healthy men selected from population registry	Cases: 167 controls: 130	Rappaport	Questionnaires applied by Interviewers; Exposure: handling organic solvents for at least one year daily	Categorization in five year age group: OR _{M-H} = 3.3 (1.9-5.8); supra- diaphragmatic tumors: OR = 6.5 (3.2-13.3); other tumor presentations: OR = 2.3 (1.3-4.3)
15- Dubrow et al., 1988, USA	Death certificate- based case- control	Cases: all white male residents of Hancock County, aged 15 or more, died during 1958- 83; controls: 4.1 chosen as a stratified random sample by age at death and year of death	Cases: 61 NHL and 15 HD; controls: 304	ICD 7 th (200, 202 and 205), 8 th (200 and 202) and 9 th (200 and 202 except 202.2 and 202.6)	Occupation and usual industry or business	No associations were found with solvent- related occupations or industries

Tablet (cont.)

Authors/year/ country	Design	Source population	Study Subjects	Disease Classification	Exposure	Results
16- Cartwright et al., 1988. UK	Hospital- based case- control	Cases: all new cases diagnosed between 1979 and 1984 in adult residents in all districts in Yorkshire Health Region. controls: 2:1 non-cancer hospital inpatients. matched for age, sex and residential health district	Cases: 437 (244 males and 193 females); controls: 724	NHL confirmed by the Regional Histopathol- ogy Lym- phoma Panel	Questionnaires applied by interviewers: past occupations and selected exposures	Solvents: OR = 1.2 (0.9-1.5); glues: OR = 1.8 (1.2-2.6); other non- significant associations without referring OR value. chemical workers; printers; painters and decorators
17- Garland et al., 1988. USA	Cohort	Exposed group: all white U.S. Navy enlisted men during 1974-1983; unexposed group: U.S. population provided by SEER.	Exposed group: 435,425 men/ 3,704,864 personyears; controls: 260	NHL reviewed by a board of specialists ICD 8 th (200.0, 200.1, 202.0- 202.9); ICD 9 th : 200.0, 200.1, 202.1, 202.8, 202.9	80 U.S. Navy occupations	68 NHL cases in the exposed group; aviation structural mechanic: 5 cases, SIR = 1.5 (0.5-3.5); machinery repairman: 1 case, SIR = 1.8 (0.0-10.0);
18- Ott et al., 1989, USA	Nested case- control	Cases: selected from a cohort of 29,139 men in two chemical plants; controls: selected from the total employee cohort according to a group- matched incidence density sampling in a 5:1 ratio	Cases: 52; controls: 260	NHL	111 work areas, 52 chemical activity groups and 21 specific chemicals	Ethanol unit OR = 5.4 (1.5-19.5); foremen and others OR = 3.2 (1.4-7.2); instrument men OR = 5.2 (1-26.7)
19- Franceschi et al., 1989, Italy	Hospital- based case- control	Cases: men and women below age 80, admitted from June 1983 to March 1988 at Aviano Cancer Center and all general hospitals in province of Pordenone; controls: men and women age 17-79 with acute disorders, from the same hospitals and catchment area	Cases: 208 (110 males and 98 females); controls: 401 (215 males and 186 females)	ICD 200-202; Rappaport; International Working Formulation	Questionnaires applied by interviewers; 20 potentially carcinogenic chemical or physical agents	Chemical workers: OR = 1.64 (0.88-3.06) petrochemical: OR = 1.83 (0.87-3.84) dye and paint: OR = 0.72 (0.36-1.44) plastic resin/glue: OR = 1.01 (0.46-2.23) benzene/solvents: OR = 1.14 (0.57-2.28) wood/furniture: OR = 0.66 (0.37-1.19)
20- La Vecchia et al., 1989, Italy	Hospital- based case- control	Cases: patients aged 15-74, admitted in to a network of teaching and general hospitals in the greater Milan area, from June 1983 to October 1988; controls: patients admitted in the same hospitals with acute conditions	Cases: 153 NHL (93 males and 60 females); 69 HD and 110 multiple myeloma; controls: 396 (269 males and 127 females)	NHL histologically confirmed	Questionnaires applied by interviewers; Exposure: 16 industries or occupations and 13 selected occupational agents or group of agents	No associations were found between NHL and solvent-related occupations (chemical, petrochemical plastic resins/glues, solvents/benzene, oil, dyes/paints, rubber, printing and furniture)
21- Persson et al., 1989, Sweden	Hospital- based case- control	Cases: NHL and HD obtained from the Department of Oncology at Örebro Medical Centre Hospital, diagnosed between 1964 and 1986, alive in 1986, aged 20-80; controls: from the population registry, resident in the same catchment area of the cases	Cases: 106 NHL (66 men and 40 women) and 54 HD; controls: 275	NHL	Posted questionnaires; Five levels of solvent exposure, at least for 1 year	Solvents: OR = 2.0 (33/50 exposed cases/controls); thinner OR = 2.7 (15/16); white spirit: OR = 3.1 (13/12); trichloroethylene: OR = 1.5 (8/14), styrene: OR = 8.0 (3/1); painters: OR = ∞ (3/0); plastic/rubber chemicals: OR = 2.5 (9/10); carpenter/cabinet makers: OR = 3.1 (10/9)

Tablet (cont)

Authors/year/ country	Design	Source population	Study Subjects	Disease Classification	Exposure	Results
22- Weisenburger et al., 1990. USA	Population- based case- control	Cases NHL in men aged 21 or older in 66 counties of eastern Nebraska, from 198 to 1986. identified through the Nebraska Lymphoma Study Group Registry and area hospitals and physicians. controls selected from residents of the same area. matched by age. race and vital status	Cases 201; controls:725	cases reviewed by pathologist	Telephone interviews, specific agents in farm practices	Chlorinated hydrocarbons. OR = 1.9 (0.8-2.3)
23- Pasqualetti et al., 1991, Italy	Hospital- based case- control	Cases hospital patients aged 24-85 with hematological malignancies. controls sex and age matched hospital controls with "medical diseases". from the same area as the cases	Cases 108 NHL within 620 total neoplasms, controls 276 within 1 240 total	NHL	Questionnaires applied by interviewers in 59% of the cases and 85% of the controls, remaining information obtained from relatives Exposure 21 risk categories	Hematological malignancies industrial activities OR = 2.97 (1.98-4.46) exposure to aromatic hydrocarbons OR = 2.15 (1.39-3.32); dyes and inks OR = 1.28 (1.11-1.99). mineral oils OR = 2.59 (1.75-3.84); paints and related products OR = 1.55 (1.06-2.26) NHL mineral oils OR = 3.4 (1.65-7.38) No association between NHL and auto-mechanics. railroad workers and specific exposures to ketones, aliphatic hydrocarbons, chlorinated hydrocarbons and dye paints and inks
24- Skov & Lynge. 1991, Denmark	Cohort	Persons aged 20-64 in 1970 (census data on industry and occupations) followed up for cancer incidence until 1980 linked with Danish Cancer Registry data	1.167 observed cases in men and 849 in women	ICD	Detailed occupational classification with 492 male groups and 447 female groups	Wood working (male) RR = 1.15 (0.87-1.52); chemists (female) RR = 2.32 (0.85-5.04); hairdressers (female) RR = 2.01 (0.81-4.14)
25- Linos et al., 1991, USA	Population- based case- control	Cases new cases of NHL and leukemia among white men diagnosed between 1980 and 1983 in Iowa and Minnesota, controls frequency matched by year of birth, vital status, state of residence and year of death, from RDD ^{vi} (<65 years) and from Health Care Finance Administration (265 years)	Cases 572 NHL and 520 leukemia cases, controls 1,130	Diagnoses reviewed by a panel of pathologists	Questionnaires applied to study subjects or their next-of-kin, exposure location of residence within 3.2 and within 0.8 Km from a factory	Factory within 3.2 Km chemical: 18 EC, RR = 1.0 (0.6-1.9); petroleum: 14 EC, RR = 1.5 (0.7-3.2); rubber. 11 EC, RR = 0.6 (0.3-1.3)
26- Wolff, 1992. UK	Ecological	Lympho-hematopoietic neoplasm incidence in 22 counties in the UK. 1984/1988	2,415 low grade and 2,550 high grade NHL, 21,072 total neoplasms	NHL	Car ownership by county, 1981 (Great Britain Population Census and Transport Statistics)	Spearman rank correlation coefficients low grade NHL 0.66 p<0.001 (cars per household), 0.68 p<0.001 (cars per thousands) high grade NHL 0.21 and 0.08 p>0.05 respectively
27- Eriksson et al., 1992, Sweden	Cohort	People followed up for cancer incidence from 1971 to 1984 (Swedish Cancer-Environment Registry) with occupational information from 1970 census	1,082 NHL (830 men 252 women), 317 HD and 684 MM ^{vi}	ICD 7 th 200-203	Occupational groups	Carpenter 1.49 observed cases, SIR ^{vi} = 1.2 (1.0-1.5)

Table 1 (cont.)

Authors/year/ country	Dorigin	Source population	Study Subjects	Disease Classification	Exposure	Results
28- Santos-Burgoa et al., 1992, US	Nested case-control	Cases: fatal lymphatic and hematopoietic malignancies in male workers of 8 North American styrene-butadiene plants. within a cohort of 13,606 workers, between 1943-1982; controls: matched by year of hire, date of death, age and duration of work, selected from the same cohort among causes of death other than neoplasms	Cases: 59 lymphohe-matopoietic cancers and 15 NHL; controls: 193 (total)	ICD 8 th 200 and 202	Personal records + panel of 4 chemical engineers to form JEM [™] ; yes/no exposure, exposure rank from 0 to 10 and continuous/discontinuous exposure	Ever/never exposure to styrene: lymphosarcoma: OR = 1.39 (0.13-3.92); other lymphoma (includes myeloma): OR = 2.42 (0.50-11.6)
29- Scherr et al., 1992, USA	Hospital- based case- control	Cases: all new cases of NHL diagnosed from January/1980 to May/1982 among residents of Boston Metropolitan Area who were treated in one of the nine participating hospitals; controls: matched by age, sex, town and precinct of residence, randomly selected from town residence list	Cases: 303 (152 males and 151 females; controls: 303	NHL reviewed by a panel of pathologists; Rappaport (modified) and International Working Formulation	Questionnaires directly applied to cases (67%), to cases' proxies (31%) and to cases' guardians (2%); no information regard distribution of the interviews in control group; occupations and agents	gasoline or kerosene: OR = 1.0 (0.6-1.7); benzene: OR = 1.2 (0.5-2.6); chlorinated solvents: OR = 1.2 (0.8-1.8); metal industry: OR = 1.2 (0.6-2.5); machinery: OR = 0.8 (0.4-1.4); shipbuilding, auto: OR = 1.0 (0.6-1.7); chemicals, drugs and paints: OR = 0.3 (0.1-0.9); leather: OR = 2.1 (0.9-4.8); dry cleaning: OR = 1.6 (0.6-4.0); painter and plasterer: OR = 6.0 (0.9-38); carpenter, brick and stone mason, plumber and roofer: OR = 12.0 (2.0-72); airplane or auto mechanic, gas station attendant: OR = 1.4 (0.6-3.6)
30- Partanen et al., 1993, Finland	Nested case-control	Cases: malignant lymphomas and leukemias notified to the Finnish Cancer Registry, diagnosed in wood male workers of 35 plants, within a cohort of 7,307 workers, between 1957-1982; controls matched by year of birth and survival/non-survival status in 1983, selected from the same cohort	Cases: 8 NHL, 4 HD and 12 leukemia cases; controls: 152 (52 for the NHL cases)	ICD, 200, 202	Individual exposure to solvents and to other agents reconstructed using a plant/period-specific JEM (cases and controls), interviews of persons at the plants + questionnaires (only cases or their next-of-kin)	Unidentified solvents: leukemias and lymphomas pooled 4 EC, OR = 5.62 (0.99-32.0); adjustment for formaldehyde exposure OR = 5.07 (0.40-63.5); NHL 2 EC and no exposed controls
31- Persson et al., 1993, Sweden	Hospital- based case- control	Cases NHL and HD occurred in men living in Östergötland, Jonköping and Kaimar counties, obtained from the Regional Cancer Registry at the University Hospital in Linköping, diagnosed between 1975/1984, alive in 1986, aged 20-80 controls from the population registry, resident in the same catchment area of the cases	Cases 93 NHL and 31 HD, controls: 204	ICD 8 th 200.0, 200.1 and 200.2	Posted questionnaires. Five levels of solvent exposure, at least for 1 year	Solvents occupational OR = 1.2 (28/53 exposed cases/controls) and Intensity category 2-5 X 0-1 (24/34) OR = 1.7 (OR _{adj} = 1.1 (0.6-2.2), white spirit OR = 1.6 (14/20); aviation gasoline OR = 3.0 (4/3); solvents non-occupational OR = 3.4 (3/2); carpenter/cabinet makers OR = 1.0. OR _{adj} = 0.9 (0.4-2.1) (11/25)

Table 1 (cont.)

Authors/year/ country	Design	Source population	Study Subjects	Disease Classification	Exposure	Results
32- Blair et al., 1993, USA	Population- based case- control	Cases: NHL in white men, reported to the Iowa State Health Registry. 1981 to 1983; NHL in white men diagnosed between 1980 to 1982 at a network of hospitals in Minnesota; controls: frequency matched by age, year of death for deceased cases and state, from RDD, medicare files and listings of death	Cases: 622; controls: 1,245	Cases reviewed by a panel of pathologists and classified according to the International Working Formulation	Questionnaires directly applied to cases and controls or their surrogates; job titles, industries and industrial hygienist judgment; probability of exposure (4 levels) and intensity of exposure (3 levels)	Painting/paper hanging: OR = 1.9 (0.9-3.8); petroleum refining: OR = 1.6 (0.5-5.8); printing: OR = 1.5 (0.4-5.1); benzene: OR = 1.1 (0.9-1.4); benzene (low/follicular): OR = 1.3 (0.9-1.9); benzene (low/diffuse): OR = 1.2 (0.8-1.8); benzene (high/follicular): OR = 1.9 (0.7-5.3); benzene (high/diffuse): OR = 1.8 (0.6-5.4); solvents other than benzene: OR = 0.9 (0.9-1.4); OR low/follicular = 1.4 (0.9-2.0); OR low/diffuse = 1.0 (0.7-1.5); OR high/follicular = 1.1 (0.4-2.7); OR high/diffuse = 2.4 (1.2-5.0); paints: OR = 1.1 (0.9-1.5); asphalt and creosote: OR = 1.0 (0.7-1.6); gasoline and diesel exhausts: OR = 1.0 (0.8-1.3)
33- Linet et al., 1993, Sweden	Cohort	People followed up for cancer incidence from 1961 to 1979 (Swedish Cancer-Environment Registry) with occupational information from 1960 census	4,496 observed cases in employed Swedish men	NHL microscopically verified	Industrial and occupational categories derived from international standards	Shoe repair industry: 23 cases. SIR = 1.8 p<0.05 shoemakers: 23 cases. SIR = 1.7 p<0.05 porcelain and earthenware: 14 cases, SIR = 1.9 p<0.05 furniture maker: 44 cases. SIR = 1.3 p<0.01 lorry drivers: 42 cases, SIR = 1.4 p<0.01
34- Linet et al., 1994, Sweden	Cohort	People followed up for cancer incidence from 1961 to 1979 (Swedish Cancer-Environment Registry) with occupational information from 1960 census	1,174 observed cases in employed Swedish women	NHL microscopically verified	Industrial and occupational categories derived from international standards	Furniture and finishing industry: 4 cases. SIR = 1.5; graphics industry and publishing business: 15 cases, SIR = 0.7; rubber industry: 5 cases. SIR = 1.1; chemical industry: 9 cases, SIR = 0.8; machine and electronics industry: 26 cases, SIR = 0.8; shoe and leather workers: 10 cases. SIR = 1.4

Table 1 (cont.)

Authors/year/ country	Design	Source population	Study Subjects	Disease Classification	Exposure	Results
35- Kolstad et al., 1994. Denmark	Cohort	Exposed group: male workers employed any time from 1964 to 1988 in 386 reinforced plastic industry and resident in Denmark after 01/01/70. followed up until 12/31/89; non-exposed group general population	Exposed group: 53.720 (584.556 p/y)	ICD 7 th 200-205	Styrene exposure in reinforced plastic industry: 2.473 personal air samples from work sites during 1964-1970, 1971-1975 and 1976-1988 with the mean styrene levels: 180, 88 and 43 ppm (1814 were sampled from companies included in the study)	Companies with 1-49% of workers in reinforced plastics production < 10 years since 1 st employment 19 OC. SIR = 2.35 (1.42-3.67). ≥ 10 years 17 OC. SIR = 1.23 (0.71-1.98). companies with 50-100% of workers in reinforced plastics production < 10 years since 1 st employment 2 OC. SIR = 0.43 (0.05-1.57); ≥ 10 years 4 OC. SIR = 0.79 (0.22-2.02). All companies 42 OC. SIR = 1.33 (0.96-1.80) 1 st year of employment 1964-1970 21 OC, SIR = 1.28 (0.79-1.96) 1971-1975 SIR = 1.19 (0.57-2.18). 1976-1988 11 OC. SIR = 1.54 (0.82-2.94)
36- Hardell et al., 1994. Sweden	Hospital-based case-control	Cases all men admitted to the Department of Oncology in Umea (catchment area). 25-85 years old; controls: 8 matched (age, sex, residence) controls for each living case and 10 matched (age, sex, residence and year of death) from the National Population Registry	Cases: 105, controls: 335	Rappaport	Self administered questionnaires, supplemented by telephone. Low (less than 1 week continuously or less than 1 month in total); high (more than that)	Carpenter 13 exposed cases/36 exposed controls. OR = 1.1 (0.6-2.4); mechanic: 5/7, OR = 2.5 (0.7-9.6); motor mechanic: 7/20. OR = 1.3 (0.5-3.4); all organic solvents: 45/88. OR = 2.4 (1.4-3.9); high grade. 31/50, OR = 2.9 (1.6-5.6), low grade: 14/38. OR = 1.8 (0.8-3.8); benzene: 3/1, OR = 2.8 (1.8-7.30); thinner: 11/14. OR = 3.4 (1.4-10); trichloroethylene: 4/4, OR = 7.2 (1.3-42); turpentine: 5/7, OR = 3.3 (0.9-17). white spirit. 12/20, OR = 3.2 (1.3-8.3); degreaser: 7/4, OR = 11 (2.9-72); multivariate analysis - high grade. OR = 3.5 (1.7-7.1); low grade: OR = 1.1 (0.5-2.7); organic solvents (lymphocytic, well differentiated NHL): OR = 2.3 (1.3-6.6)
37- Figgis et al., 1995. USA	Death certificate-based case-control	Cases. NHL deaths among residents from 24 American states between 1984-1989; controls. 5 matched non-cancer deaths	Cases: 23,890; controls 119,450	NHL (ICD 9 th = 200 and 202, except 202.3 and 202.6)	Industries and occupations obtained from death certificates	White men: aircraft mechanics: 8 EC. OR = 2.5 (1.1-6.0). farm equipment mechanics. 7 EC. OR = 2.1 (0.9-5.3); electronic repairs: 12 EC, OR = 2.1 (1.1-4.1); miscellaneous electronic and electrical repairs: 10 EC. OR = 2.0 (1.0-4.3); painters: 65 EC. OR = 0.6 (0.5-0.8); black men: ship/boat building and repair: 7 EC. OR = 2.9 (1.1-7.9)

Table 1 (cont.)

Authors/year/ county	Design	Source population	study Subjects	Disease Classification	Exposure	Results
38- Hours et al., 1995, France	Hospital- based case- control	Cases: hematological malignancies diagnosed in both sexes, aged 30-74, between 01/01/81-12/31/87 in 2 hospitals in Lyon; controls: 1:1 matched non-cancer and non- occupationally diseased patients by sex, age and nationality from the same hospitals	Cases: 52 NHL; 48 AML ² leukemia and 18 other leukemias		Occupational exposures to 320 compounds; questionnaires + evaluation by experts in chemistry and occupational medicine:	Mononuclear aromatic hydrocarbon: 13 EC, OR = 2.10 p = 0.23; polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbon. 30 EC, OR = 0.76 p = ?; BTX mix: 6 EC, OR = 14.86 p < 0.01; inks: 20 EC. OR = 2.47 P = 0.02; varnish and paints: 6 EC. OR = 2.55 p = 0.08
39- Hunting et al., 1995, USA	Cohort mortality	338 male employees (3,813 p/y) of the fleet maintenance division of the DC's Department of Public Works (DPW), employed for at least 1 year between 1/1/7 - 12/31/91	9 cancer and 3 lymphatic and hematopoietic deaths (1 NHL death)	ICD 9 th	Low, medium or high potential exposure to fuels and solvents according to personal records data and DPW and union representatives discussion	Lymphatic and hematopoietic cancers: 3 cases SMR = 4.22 (0.87-12.34) NHL. 1 case SMR = 2.57 (0.06-14.27)
40- Yin et al. 1996, China	Multicenter retrospective cohort	Exposed group: benzene-exposed workers employed from 1/1/72 to 12/31/87 in 672 factories in 12 Chinese cities; unexposed group: workers from 109 factories in the same period and places	Exposed group: 74.828 workers; unexposed group: 35.805 workers	International Working Formulation	Work units. job titles; monitoring data; list of raw material and factory products: engineering control; personal protective equip.. estimated exposures in ppm	Mortality. 17 EC; RR = 4.5 (1.3-28.4); incidence 20 EC; RR = 3.5 (1.3-14.9)
41- Schnatter, 1996, Canada	Nested case- control	Cases: all male NHL deaths from a cohort of petroleum workers; controls: 4:1 from the same cohort matched by decade of birth	Cases: 31 lympho-haematopoi-etic including 8 NHL; controls: 124, 32 for NHL cases	ICD 8 th : 200, 202.0, 202.1, 202.2 and 202.9	Benzene and total hydrocarbon exposures; personal records + evaluation by experts in industrial hygiene; estimated exposures in ppm	Total hydrocarbons, cumulative exposure in ppm-y: 0-11.6 OR = 1; 11.7-29.9 OR = 1.73 (0.02-137); 30-549 OR = 0; 550-6721 OR = 1.22 (0.01-137); benzene: 0-0.49 OR = 1; 0.50-7.99 OR = 1.21 (0.16-9.7); 8-19.99 OR = 1.14 (0.02-27.6); 20-219.8 OR = 0; benzene (mean ppm): 0-0.01 OR = 1; >0.01-0.19 OR = 1.25 (0.10-11.3); 0.20-0.49 OR = 0.97 (0.08-7.58); 0.50-6.16 OR = 0; benzene (maximum intensity in ppm): <0.5 OR = 1, 0.51-0.99 OR = 5.85 (0.30-354); ≥1.0 OR = 0.54 (0.01-5.94)

Table 1 (cont.)

Authors/year/ country	Design	Source population	Study Subjects	Disease Classification	Exposure	Results
42- Fritschi & Siemiatycki, 1996. Canada	Registry- based case- control	Cases: all new male cases diagnosed between 1979- 1985 , aged 35-70. resident in Montreal; controls: from other cancer patients. except lung cancer and from electoral list or by RDD	Cases: 258 eligible and 215 interviewed ; controls: 2,357 from the cancer registry and 740 from population with 533 interviewed	NHL	Questionnaires + evaluation by a team of chemists and industrial hygienists; confidence of exposure: possible. probable and definite; frequency of exposure: <5%, 5-30% and >30% ; and the level of the agent at the workplace; classification of occupations and Industries	Benzene: low level. 20 EC. OR = 0.7 (0.4-1.1); high level: 6 EC. OR = 0.8 (0.3-2.1); solvents: low level. 26 EC . OR = 0.6 (0.4-1.0); high level, 48 EC OR = 0.9 (0.6-1.3); carpenters: 1-9 years: no cases; 10+ years: 4 EC. OR = 0.8 (0.3-2.2); furniture: 1-9 years. 1 EC, OR = 0.4 (0.1-3.4); 10+ years. 3 EC. OR = 1.6 (0.4-6.1); rubber and plastic workers: 1-9 years: 4 EC, OR = 3.6 (0.9-15.0); 10+ years: 1 EC. OR = 9.0 10.6-148.0)
43- Massoudi et al., 1997, USA	Death certificate- based case- control	Cases: lymphatic and hematopoietic cancer in white male, aged 23-96 who had died between 1965-1990 and lived in Kanawha County (West Virginia); controls: matched 1:1 cardiovascular disease patients with the same characteristics	Cases: 309 lymphatic and hematopoietic cancers (106 NHL); controls: 106	NHL (ICD 9th 200. 202) reviewed by a pathologist	Industries and occupations obtained from death certificates and validated by interviewing next of kin; 3 categories of exposure: chemical manufacturing workers; those exposed to chemicals at other jobs; those not exposed	Chemical workers X not exposed: unstratified: OR = 1.52 (0.8-2.8), p = 0.168. <65 50 MP, OR = 3.11 (1.1-8.8), p = 0.03. ≥ 65. 56 MP, OR = 0.97 (0.5-2.1), p = 0.94
44- Holly et al., 1997. USA	Population- based case- control	Cases: NHL in homosexual men; controls: homosexual men, matched by age within five years and county of residence	Cases: 312 NHL; controls: 420	NHL	Chemical and occupational exposures from questionnaires	Petroleum products. HIV+ men: OR = 0.37 (0.18-0.72), 10-499 hours: OR = 0.61 (0.34-1.1), >500 h; HIV- men: OR = 1.6 (0.69-3.6), 10-499 h; OR = 0.94 (0.37-2.4); gasoline, HIV+ men: OR = 0.65 (0.36-1.2), >10 h; HIV- men: OR = 1.7 (0.72-4.0); Kerosene and other oils. HIV+ men: OR = 0.72 (0.36-1.5), >100 h; HIV- men. OR = 1.3 (0.52-3.1). >100 h; aldehydes, cleaning solvents and adhesives, HIV+ men: OR = 0.60 (0.32-1.1), 10-249 h; OR = 0.52 (0.29-0.93), >250 h; HIV- men: OR = 1.0 (0.47-2.2), 10-249 h, OR = 1.5 (0.69-3.1). >250 h; benzene. all men: OR = 1.2 (0.62-2.4), >10 h; chlorinated solvents, all men' OR = 0.73 (0.41-1.3)

Table1 (cont.)

Authors/year/ country	Design	Source population	Study Subjects	Disease Classification	Exposure	Results
45- Tatham et al., 1997. USA	Population- based case- control	Cases: NHL in men from eight cancer registries between December/1984- November/1988 ; controls: matched by date of birth (five years) through random digit dialing	Cases: 1,048 NHL (185 small cell diffuse lymphomas; 268 follicular and lymphomas 526 large cell diffuse lymphomas); controls: 1,659 individuals	Subtypes of NHL defined by a panel of pathologists	Telephone interview. Time of exposure for all jobs with Known dates; exposures were defined as within 10 years and more than 10 years	Chlorinated hydrocarbons: OR = 0.91 (0.75-1.10); solvents (all NHL subtypes): OR = 1.10 (0.90-1.30); solvents (small cell diffuse): OR = 1.60 (1.10-2.20); solvents (small cell diffuse), ≤ 9 years of exposure: OR = 1.50 (0.99-2.20); solvents (small cell diffuse), > 9 years of exposure: OR = 1.70 (1.10-2.60); solvents (small cell diffuse), ≤ 10 years since first exposure. OR = 3.00 (1.60-5.80); solvents (small cell diffuse), > 10 years since first exposure: OR = 1.50 (1.00-2.10); solvents (follicular): OR = 1.0 (0.79-1.40); solvents (large cell diffuse): OR = 0.97 (0.79-1.20)

* Observed/expected

† RCS = reticulum cell sarcoma, LS = lymphosarcoma, HD = Hodgkin's disease.

NHL = non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, ALL = acute lymphocytic leukemia.

CLL = chronic lymphocytic leukemia. MM = multiple myeloma. AML = acute myeloid leukemia

‡ RR = relative risk, OR = odds ratio, EC = exposed case, SMR = standard mortality ratio,

SIR = standard incidence ratio

§ International Classification of Diseases

¶ Surveillance, Epidemiology and End Results Program, at National Cancer Institute - USA

|| RDD = random digit dialing

||| JEM = job exposure matrix

Acknowledgments

This study was supported by CAPES (Centro de Aperfeiçoamento de Pessoal de Nível Superior), a organization of the Brazilian Government, and by the cooperation between the School of Public Health/University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, USA and the Institute of Public Health/Federal University of Bahia - Brazil. I thank the Occupational Health Center and the Petrochemical Workers Union, Bahia - Brazil. Also I thank Dr. Dana Loomis and Dr. Steve Wing, assistant professors at SPH/UNC for their comments. Dr. Claudio Sousa for his support and Dr. Brian Shelley, Dr. Luenda Charles and Dr. Rita Régio for the overall review.

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