Liver

There were no significant differences between the unexposed group and the Ever PCP group or Only PCP group with respect to past medical history of hepatitis, jaundice, or cirrhosis. Four workers in the Ever PCP chloracne group gave a history of past hepatitis compared to 4 workers in the unexposed group (6.2% vs 1.7%; p=0.045 after adjusting for age and alcohol), but the difference was not significant after excluding workers whose hepatitis occurred before employment at the plant. When the Only PCP chloracne group was compared to unexposed workers, there was again a significant difference in a history of ever having had hepatitis (9.7% vs 1.7%, adjusted p=.0165), but no significant difference in hepatitis after employment at the plant. Two of the workers in the Only PCP chloracne group had abnormal liver consistency compared to one worker in the unexposed group (6.5% vs 0.3%; adjusted p=.0195). One of these workers had metastatic cancer with probable liver involvement at the time of examination.

Mean values of serum liver function tests are presented in Table 4. There were no significant differences between unexposed workers and any of the PCP exposure groups with regard to mean serum values of total protein, albumin, LDH, SGPT, alkaline phosphatase, and prothrombin time in the adjusted analyses using dichotomous exposure or days of exposure. Workers in the the Only PCP group had a significantly lower SGOT in the adjusted analysis using days of exposure. There were also no significant differences between the unexposed workers and any of the PCP exposure subgroups in the percentages of abnormal results for these same liver function tests in the adjusted analyses using dichotomous exposure. Workers in the Ever PCP group had a significantly higher percentage of abnormal LDH (1.9 vs 1.0%) and a significantly lower prothrombin time (5.9 vs 8.5 seconds) in the adjusted analysis using days of exposure. The mean serum bilirubin in the Ever PCP group was significantly lower than in the unexposed workers in the unadjusted, but not in the adjusted analyses (0.55 vs 0.60 mg/dl; p=0.023).

STLCOPCB4043920