

1 A I'm not surprised at that.

2 Q Okay. What are some of the ways that you
3 judge the quality of an epidemiological study?

4 A Well, what do I consider?

5 Q Yeah, Dr. Paustenbach, what are some of the
6 ways you, Dr. Paustenbach, judge the quality of an
7 epidemiological study?

8 A I look at the journal it's in right away.
9 There are certain journals that are more rigorous than
10 others with respect to the threshold as to whether they
11 are considered good or average quality studies. I
12 looked at the size of the cohort, the exposure
13 information, the length of time that the study, the
14 people in the study were evaluated.

15 I look to see if they are using qualitative or
16 quantitative descriptions of exposure. I look to see
17 if the results are consistent or inconsistent with
18 other people who have studied the same issue. I like
19 to see if there is confounding variables, especially in
20 the kind of work that I do.

21 I want to see if there are alternate sources of
22 exposure to that same chemical versus the occupation
23 being evaluated. I like to look at the statistical
24 strength of the results, and I'm particularly
25 interested in the size of the background that is