



THE DOW CHEMICAL COMPANY

MIDLAND, MICHIGAN 48674

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SUBJECT: AN UPDATE OF MORTALITY AMONG CHEMICAL WORKERS EXPOSED TO VINYL CHLORIDE

Attached is a copy of the abstract for a protocol "AN UPDATE OF MORTALITY AMONG CHEMICAL WORKERS EXPOSED TO VINYL CHLORIDE". This protocol has received final clearance and the study is now underway.

If you have need for a copy of the complete protocol, please contact me.

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ABSTRACT

An Update of Mortality Among Chemical Workers Exposed to Vinyl Chloride

Protocol No. EPI-DR-9999-9999-2386

Bond GG, McLaren EA, Sobel W, Sabel FL, Lipps TE, and Cook RR

We propose to update an earlier study by Ott et al of Michigan Division employees potentially exposed to vinyl chloride (VC/PVC) with an additional nine years of mortality follow-up through 1982. Included for study are 594 male employees identified as having worked in monomer, homopolymer, or copolymer VC/PVC operations between 1942 and 1960. Comparisons of observed cause-specific mortality in the cohort will be made with expected levels based on 1) the U.S. male population, adjusted for race, age, and calendar year, and 2) all other Michigan Division male employees, adjusted for race, age, interval since entry into follow-up, and pay status (hourly or salary). Special focus will be directed at deaths from cancers of liver (specifically angiosarcoma), biliary system, and brain, as well as from emphysema, because prior toxicology or epidemiology studies suggest associations between these conditions and VC/PVC exposure. We anticipate separating subjects into subgroups defined by exposure intensity and duration for testing dose-response relationships. Potential limitations of the study include a relatively low statistical power to rule-out moderately sized increased risks for the diseases of interest, and potential confounding by cigarette smoking. Nevertheless, the study should provide useful information for placing the possible risks faced by these workers into better perspective.

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