

In Phase 2, a number of different sources have been used to identify potential study sites. In addition, a reasonable balance of gender and age groups will be sought, as in phase 1. All workers (exposed and controls) will be required to have worked in the facility at least one month. In addition, a reasonable percentage (20% or more) of longer-term workers (exposed for 10 or years or more) will be sought. Exclusion criteria will include a history of cancer, therapeutic radiation or chemotherapy exposure. Selected workers will be invited to participate in the study and informed consent obtained. Blood samples will be collected by venipuncture.

Findings considered to be clinically significant, and/or to indicate a diagnosis of BP is warranted will be communicated to 1) the SMCDCP and Municipal Health Bureau; 2) the patient's attending physician, and 3) the ME research database. Patients diagnosed with BP will be invited to participate in the Disease Progression Study and offered clinical follow-up. It is expected that some individuals will present with abnormal hematologic changes that are insufficient to warrant a diagnosis of BP. In such cases, we will communicate these findings to their treating physician.

31 REFERENCES

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