



Occupational and Environmental Asthma

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Message from the Guest Editors

In patients with asthma, high levels of particulate matter (i.e., diesel exhaust particles), ozone, sulphur dioxide, and nitrous oxide (O₃, SO₂, and NO₂) can accelerate the appearance of symptoms, increasing the number of consultations at emergency services and hospitalizations due to decompensation of the diseases. Furthermore, there is growing evidence that environmental pollution not only aggravates asthma but may cause it. Apart from air pollution, there are other environmental factors associated with urban living that are suspected to play a role in asthma onset and exacerbation. Environmental exposures in urban settings are largely explained by urban and transport planning indicators (e.g., road network, distance to major roads, and traffic density, household density, industry, and natural and green space explain a large proportion of the variability), but also by personal behaviour.

On the other side, work-related asthma is frequently missed. Epidemiological studies indicate that occupational exposure may be the cause of up to 25% of all cases of adult-onset asthma. Asking patients whether their symptoms improve when they are away from work should be always considered.





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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Addressing the environmental and public health challenges requires engagement and collaboration among clinicians and public health researchers. Discovery and advances in this research field play a critical role in providing a scientific basis for decision-making toward control and prevention of human diseases, especially the illnesses that are induced from environmental exposure to health hazards. *IJERPH* provides a forum for discussion of discoveries and knowledge in these multidisciplinary fields. Please consider publishing your research in this high quality, peer-reviewed, open access journal.

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