



Air Pollution and Cardiovascular Risk

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Message from the Guest Editor

In many major cities, urban air is polluted due to particulate matter and toxic gases. Long-term and short-term exposures to particulate matter are linked to cardiovascular disease, including myocardial infarction, probably via pro-inflammatory and prothrombotic pathways. Toxic chemicals linked to cardiovascular disease are carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen oxide (NO₂), ozone (O₃), and sulphurdioxide (SO₂).

Recent research has convincingly shown the association between air pollution and cardiovascular disease. The impact of pollution in city centers is clear, as it is almost doubling the risk of coronary artery calcification in middle-aged asymptomatic citizens. Furthermore, it has been found that variations in pollution levels may affect the mortality rates.

Elderly with pre-existing cardiovascular disease represent the most vulnerable group at risk from air pollution exposure. Suggestions to limit the time spent outdoors to reduce the infiltration of air pollution have been made. On the population level, it has been shown that life will expectancy improve if the air quality is controlled.





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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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