

November 27, 2023

Elisabete Weiderpass, MD, MSc, PhD  
IARC Director  
25 Av. Tony Garnier  
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Dear Dr. Weiderpass,

We are writing to request that you consider augmenting the information contained in the "List of classifications by cancer sites with sufficient or limited evidence in humans, Monographs Volumes 1-133." This List as posted on the IARC website is a very useful tool in conveying this information to the public, governmental agencies, and the medical community. Many individuals, however, have no knowledge of where these carcinogenic exposures occur. Thus, in terms of IARC's continued commitment to cancer prevention, we suggest that IARC consider developing a Table to accompany the above-mentioned information that would list the workplaces, environments, and behaviors which potentially expose people to a carcinogen followed by the specific carcinogenic agent experienced in each of those situations and the cancer sites that have been established by IARC for those carcinogens. An example would be as follows:

Exposure Situation:	Carcinogenic Agent:	Cancer site:
Cabinet Manufacturing	Wood dust	Nasal cavity and paranasal sinus

With knowledge of their current jobs, environments and behaviors, people could check the Table and identify the carcinogenic exposures they may be experiencing and take measures to reduce these exposures. Workers could perhaps modify their work behavior or request more appropriate personal protective equipment. In addition, individuals and their healthcare providers could become aware of cancers related to any current or past carcinogenic exposures, be watchful for early symptoms of that type of cancer and conduct appropriate clinical testing to increase the chance of early detection, if that cancer were to develop.

Considering the above noted example, individuals with a current or past work experience in cabinet manufacturing and their medical providers could be watchful for early signs of nasal cavity and paranasal sinus cancer, such as nasal congestion that does not get better, blockage of one side of the nose, headaches in sinus areas, etc., signs that could easily go unnoticed. If these early symptoms occur and are recognized, timely diagnostic testing could be done. Currently, most of these cancers are diagnosed at an advanced stage. Increased awareness through carcinogen exposure identification could help diagnose these cancers at an earlier and more successfully treatable stage. The Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results (SEER) database states that the 5-year survival rates for people diagnosed at different stages of nasal cavity and paranasal sinus cancers are 86% for localized, 52% for regional and 43% for distant.

**This recommended Table could immediately be used to increase awareness of carcinogenic exposures. Individuals could peruse the list and check any relevant carcinogen exposure situations and immediately take note of associated carcinogens and cancer sites. Also, the Table could become a cancer education and prevention tool utilized during routine patient intake. Hopefully, the increased awareness obtained from this tool would lead to a decrease in carcinogen exposures and related cancers, and an increase in early cancer detection.**

**Additionally, in today's technological world, the development of a computer program that cross-references this information could be very beneficial. Any interested person could simply input a workplace, environment, or behavior; a carcinogenic agent; or a cancer site and retrieve the desired related information from the other two data sets. This program could be accessed by any computer worldwide and could become part of routine healthcare.**

**WHO has stated that prevention offers the most cost-effective long-term strategy for the control of cancer. Adding this easily attainable information from the Monographs to IARC's existing website and/or developing a computer program through which any person could access this information could provide a very effective cancer prevention tool, may save lives, and decrease cancer related health care costs.**

**We would greatly appreciate your thoughts on our recommendations.**

**Sincerely,**



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