To improve the access to the rights of insured persons

About an action for recognition in occupational disease of bladder cancer in Normandy

No conflict of interest.



Introduction

- In France, according to projections made by the INVS *, the incidence of bladder cancer is increasing: 12 000 new cases / year in 2003
- Bladder cancer is the 11th cause of cancer in France
- The diagnosis is late around 70 years.
- Professional factors are the second cause after tobacco
- The French regulations provide for financial compensation by the Health Insurance in case of recognized occupational disease



^{*} National Institute for Public Health Surveillance

Introduction

- In 2003, in Normandy, we have also noticed that the number of requests for long-term affections for bladder cancer has increased a lot since several years
- Concurrently, few bladder cancers was recognized as occupational diseases: only 2 cases / year on average before 2003
- Region with an industrial fabric at risk for this disease with exposure to aromatic amines and Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs). (chemical, textile, printing or petrochemical industries)



Introduction

- Hypothesis: under declaration of this pathology in occupational risk
- A first study conducted in 2003 in Upper Normandy had shown that the systematic search for a professional origin led to recognition in 5% of cases (16 cases in 1 year)

The hypothesis of under declaration seemed to be verified

 In 2008, began a national experiment in 2 regions including Normandy

Objectives

The aim of the experiment was to verify the hypothesis of under declaration of bladder cancer in a greatest territory Particulary:

- Measure the occupational risk of patients admitted to long-term affection for bladder cancer
- Identify patients eligible for a recognition in occupational disease N ° 15 ter (aromatic amines) or 16 bis
- Promote recognition of professional risk by mobilizing all stakeholders

Method (1)

- The identification of patients on the occasion of their request for long term affection
- The collect of information:
 - > On the employment history,
 - From 2008 to 2012:

interview between the medical adviser and the patient

- 2013: Telephone interview with an agent of medical service
- ➤ On the medical data : by the medical adviser during a consultation or by telephone exchange
- The information of the attending physician



Method (2)

- Decision and orientation of each patient:
 - In case of absence of professional origin: classification of the file without further action
 - In case of very likely professional origin:
 - informing the insured, without anticipating subsequent decisions
 - declaration of occupational disease by the patient and with the agreement of the patient, mail to the treating physician for writing the initial medical certificate



Method (3)

Upon receipt of the documents, instruction of the file, according to the same procedure of recognition that all the occupational diseases



Conditions of recognition of the occupational disease

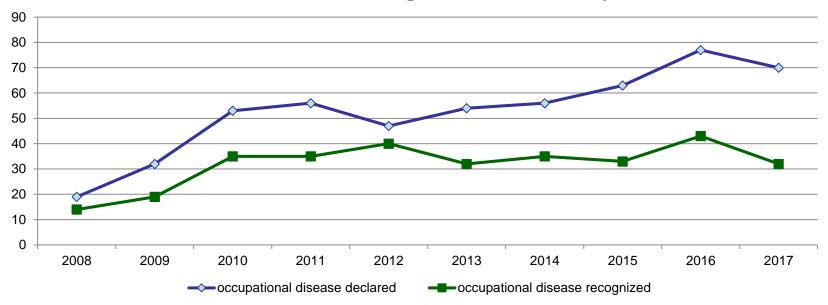
Table No. 15 ter for aromatic amines



- Table No. 16 bis for tars, pitches and coal oils and coal combustion soot (Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons)
- Regional Committee for the Recognition of Occupational Diseases if the conditions of the tables are not met

Results (1)

Evolution over 10 years of the occupational disease declared and recognized in Normandy



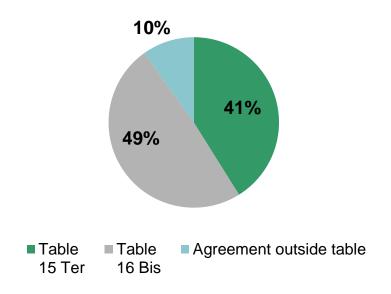
In 2017, the number of cancer recognized as an occupational disease is 3 times higher than in 2008

Results (2)

Over 10 years from 2008 to 2017

- 10 158 subjects have requested long term affection for this pathology (from 623 in 2008 to 1320 in 2017)
- 5.1% (n=527) have claimed an occupational disease
- 60.3% of reported occupational disease are recognized
- 3.2%(n=318) of bladder cancers have been recognized: 32 per year on average-(from 2.1% to 4%)

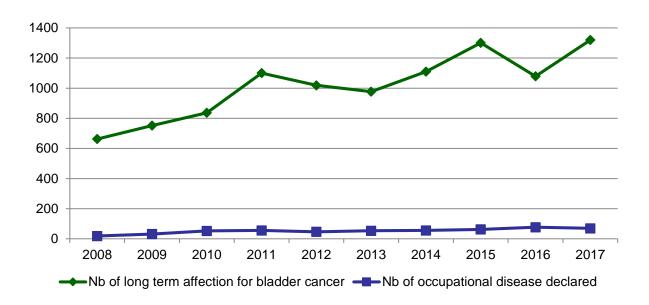
Distribution of the motives for recognition





Results (3)

- Since 2010, in Normandy, the number of occupational cancers is stable around 30 to 35 new cases per year.
- The share of occupational cancers among bladder cancers is decreasing.



Discussion

- The hypothesis of one under reporting was verified during the experimentation between 2008 and 2014 and then during the generalization stage in whole France
- As in Normandy, the increase in the number of occupational cancers is observed in each region as soon as the detection and investigation protocol is implemented.
- The share of occupational cancers among bladder cancers is decreasing.
 - The increasing of incidence of female cancers suggests a larger role of tobacco in etiologies of bladder cancer.

Discussion

Causes of under reporting:

- Lack of knowledge of carcinogen exposures to employees during their careers
- Lack of patient information about the possibility of reporting an occupational disease
- Lack of information of general practitioner about the procedure
- Deadline of appearance of the disease of several decades between exposure and diagnosis (mean age of discovery: 71 years)
- Often after the cessation of activity
- Companies which have sometimes disappeared



Conclusion

A real improvement of rights for every concerned patient

Bladder cancer

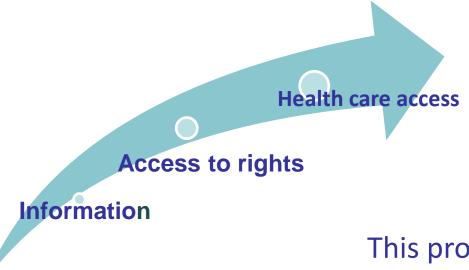
- The same financial support of care as for any cancer
- 100 % support

Occupational disease

- Higher daily benefits if sick leave
- Payment of an annuity or an indemnity if definitive sequels
- Annuity to the beneficiaries if death attributable to the occupational disease

Conclusion

This action shows that an active approach of detection brings convincing results



This program is integrated into the national policy of rights improvement

Thanks for your attention

Study carried out in the region Normandy (France) with the collaboration of Dr Martigny -all the medical advisers and administrative officers- Dr Nicolle- Dr Peyclit (regional directors of medical service)

Acknowlegements to all the participants