

TCDD Intoxication of Vienna: Viewpoint of occupational medicine

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2,3,7,8-TCDD intoxication was diagnosed in two patients with chloracne. One of them had the highest level of TCDD ever measured anywhere, 144 000 pg/g blood lipids. Besides a severe chloracne the patients suffered mainly from nausea, gastritis, dysmenorrhea, hyperlipidemia and muscle pain.

The two patients worked together in an institute which is specialised in the analyses of textil products. The workplace was an office room, which had been partitioned off a few months before from a former chemical laboratory. As a result of this the office lies next to the chemical laboratory. In order to find the source of TCDD intoxication various analyses were done (air, carpet, laboratory equipment) without any conclusive results. Therefore, the source of TCDD exposure has not been clarified.

TCDD blood levels in thirty other workers from the institute were in the normal range except in three employees with moderately increased TCDD levels of 867 pg/g blood lipids.

Micronuclei, sister chromatid exchange and dicentric chromosomes showed normal values since the beginning.

However, two month later micronuclei increased at two patients to 21,8/500 binucleated cytokinesis-blocked cells and fell subsequently together with a decrease of TCDD levels.

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