

BRAZILIAN JOURNAL OF OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH
CALL FOR MANUSCRIPTS - THEMATIC DOSSIER:
"Occupational Cancer"

Opening: December 16th, 2024

Closing: April 30th, 2025

The Brazilian Journal of Occupational Health (RBSO) announces the public call for the submission of manuscripts to compose the thematic Dossier "Occupational Cancer". This initiative aims to stimulate scientific production, academic discussion and the consequent dissemination of studies on exposure to carcinogens in the workplace, medical control and epidemiological surveillance of exposed groups and opportunities for primary prevention of known risks at work.

Syllabus

Globally, cancer is the second leading cause of death¹. 40 to 50% of cancers occur due to potentially preventable causes, notably smoking, alcoholism, obesity, infections, environmental and occupational pollution². Based on estimates of global population growth and changes in age structures, a 77% increase in cancer cases is predicted in 2050, compared to the current decade³.

One of the main sources of recognition of carcinogens occurred in work settings. Depending on the production process, and having spatial delimitation as one of its characteristics, the work environment can be a source of exposure where carcinogens concentrate. It is estimated that occupational exposures are responsible for about 5% of all cancers⁴. 2019 data from the Global Burden of Diseases (GBD) project estimates that occupational risks were responsible for 12% of cases and 2.3% of global mortality from lung cancer in Latin America and the Caribbean⁵.

Unlike preventable causes of cancer such as smoking, alcoholism and obesity, harmful occupational exposures are rarely under the individual's control, either due to lack of information (at different levels) and/or inadequate working conditions.

¹ GBD 2019 Cancer Risk Factors Collaborators. The global burden of cancer attributable to risk factors, 2010-19: a systematic analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2019. *Lancet*. 2022 Aug 20;400(10352):563-591. doi: 10.1016/S0140-6736(22)01438-6.

² WHO. Available at <https://www.who.int/activities/preventing-cancer>. Access 08/05/2024

³ Bray F, Laversanne M, Sung H, et al. Global cancer statistics 2022: GLOBOCAN estimates of incidence and mortality worldwide for 36 cancers in 185 countries. *CA Cancer J Clin*. 2024;1-35. doi:10.3322/caac.21834

⁴ Olsson A, Kromhout H. Occupational cancer burden: the contribution of exposure to process-generated substances at the workplace. *Mol Oncol*. 2021 Mar;15(3):753-763. doi: 10.1002/1878-0261.12925.

⁵ Available at <https://vizhub.healthdata.org/gbd-compare/>, Access 08/05/2024

Also, cases of cancer are rarely recognized as occupational. The main causes of non-recognition are the long latency period, leading to memory biases about remote exposures and health professionals' lack of knowledge about the relationships between cancer and occupational risks. Finding relevant occupational information in outpatient and/or hospital records of cancer patients is an exception.

In October 2023, the Latin American and Caribbean Code on Cancer Prevention was launched⁶. The objectives were:

- the development of clear and effective messages about cancer prevention,
- offering a structure aimed at stimulating and empowering individual and community cancer prevention programs, offering information for the transmission of scientific evidence about cancer risks in the region,
- encouraging public policies with the adoption of the Code by countries in the region⁷.

The main environmental and occupational factors identified as prevalent in the region were addressed in recommendations, both for the individual and for public policies, including training modules for health professionals to be made available soon⁸. The adoption of the Code and the implementation of actions, projects and research that address its recommendations is strongly encouraged⁹. The code also identified environmental and occupational exposures for which it was not possible to issue recommendations to the public due to the lack of documentation and research in Latin America and the Caribbean, which is why they are considered priority areas for cancer research in the region.

Therefore, the dossier aims to encourage academics, researchers and healthcare professionals to submit manuscripts that address the different facets of exposure to carcinogens in the workplace.

Subjects of interest:

- Mechanisms of chemical carcinogenesis
- Surveillance for carcinogens
- Risk assessment methods for exposed groups
- Epidemiological designs, confounding and bias in studies on occupational cancer

⁶ Available at <https://www.paho.org/pt/codigo-latino-americano-e-caribenho-contra-cancer>

⁷ Cazap E, de Almeida LM, Arrossi S, García PJ, Garmendia ML, Gil E, Hassel T, Mayorga R, Mohar A, Murillo R, Owen GO, Paonessa D, Santamaría J, Tortolero-Luna G, Zoss W, Herrero R, Luciani S, Schüz J, Espina C. Latin America and the Caribbean Code Against Cancer: Developing Evidence-Based Recommendations to Reduce the Risk of Cancer in Latin America and the Caribbean. *J Glob Oncol*. 2019 Jun;5:1-3. doi: 10.1200/JGO.19.00032.

⁸ Blanco E, Algranti E, Cifuentes LA, López-Carrillo L, Mora AM, Rodríguez-Guzmán J, Rodríguez-Villamizar LA, Veiga LHS, Canelo-Aybar C, Nieto-Gutierrez W, Feliu A, Espina C, Ferreccio C. Latin America and the Caribbean Code Against cancer 1st edition: Environment, occupation, and cancer. *Cancer Epidemiol*. 2023 Oct;86 Suppl 1:102381. doi: 10.1016/j.canep.2023.102381

⁹ Camargo MC, Feliu A, Stern MC, Villarreal-Garza C, Ferreccio C, Espina C. The Latin America and the Caribbean Code Against Cancer: an opportunity for empowerment and progress. *Lancet Reg Health Am*. 2023 Dec 2;28:100644. doi: 10.1016/j.lana.2023.100644.

- Prevalence studies of exposure to carcinogens
- Cross-sectional, case-control or cohort studies of groups exposed to carcinogens
- Systematic, scoping reviews and meta-analyses on carcinogens
- Reports of experience with environmental/medical control of exposed groups
- Occupational cancer notification and registries
- Legal and regulatory issues regarding occupational carcinogens
- Public policies for the control of occupational carcinogens

The submission of manuscripts containing approaches of an interdisciplinary nature is encouraged, as well as the participation of authors linked to related institutions in Latin American countries and other continents. This will allow us to bring together a diversity of visions and experiences that will enrich experiences and perspectives in the field.

About RBSO

RBSO is an open access scientific journal, edited and published by the Jorge Duprat Figueiredo Foundation for Occupational Safety and Medicine (FUNDACENTRO), since 1973. It is intended for the dissemination of original research articles on Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) whose content can contribute to the understanding and improvement of working conditions, to the prevention of accidents and illnesses at work and to support the discussion and definition of public policies related to the topic.

General orientations

Preferably, research articles, reviews and experience reports will be accepted, which can be submitted in Portuguese, English or Spanish. Manuscripts must be submitted online, on the ScholarOne Manuscripts (<https://mc04.manuscriptcentral.com/rbso-scielo>), including, in the cover letter field, the information that the article is directed to the thematic dossier "Occupational Cancer". Manuscripts must be prepared in accordance with the instructions to authors, observing the limits on the number of words and bibliographic references. More information is available at the link: www.scielo.br/rbso.

Evaluation of articles and publication

All submitted manuscripts will undergo preliminary evaluation by the dossier editors regarding scope and suitability for the journal's editorial standards, including originality, ethical aspects and scientific quality. Those that meet the criteria will be sent to a peer review process, in accordance with the journal's standards. RBSO does not charge fees for submitting, processing, or publishing articles. Manuscripts approved for publication may be translated into English, at the editorial discretion, at no cost to the authors.

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