



*Information on tungsten: sources, properties and uses,
also, about health, safety & environment*

Results of the Hardmetal Epidemiology Study, an International Investigation

In December 2017 a series of papers detailing the results of an extensive epidemiological study of hardmetal workers were published in the Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine. The study included 32,354 workers from three companies and 17 manufacturing sites in five countries. The University of Pittsburgh Center for Occupational Biostatistics and Epidemiology coordinated the studies which involved researchers from ten different institutions in Europe and the US. Based on the pooled data, the researchers found no evidence that duration, average intensity or cumulative exposure to tungsten, cobalt or nickel, at levels experienced by the workers examined increases lung cancer mortality risks. They also found no evidence that work in these facilities increased mortality risks from any other causes of death. Click [here](#) for a summary of the study methods and results prepared by the study's lead researcher. The following is a listing of the published peer-reviewed papers:

- [Mortality Among Hardmetal Production Workers: Pooled Analysis of Cohort Data From an International Investigation](#). Marsh GM, et al. J Occup Environ Med. 2017 Dec; 59(12): e342-e364.
- [Mortality Among Hardmetal Production Workers: A Retrospective Cohort Study in the Austrian Hardmetal Industry](#). Wallner P, et al. J Occup Environ Med. 2017 Dec; 59(12): e282-e287.
- [Mortality Among Hardmetal Production Workers: UK Cohort and Nested Case-Control Studies](#). McElvenny DM, et al. J Occup Environ Med. 2017 Dec; 59(12): e275-e281
- [Mortality Among Hardmetal Production Workers: Occupational Exposures](#). Kennedy KJ, et al. J Occup Environ Med. 2017 Dec; 59(12): e297-e305.
- [Mortality Among Hardmetal Production Workers: The Swedish Cohort](#). Westberg H, et al. J Occup Environ Med. 2017 Dec; 59(12): e263-e274.
- [Mortality Among Hardmetal Production Workers: German Historical Cohort Study](#). Morfeld P, et al. J Occup Environ Med. 2017 Dec; 59(12): e288-e296.
- [Mortality Among Hardmetal Production Workers: US Cohort and Nested Case-Control Studies](#). Marsh GM, et al. J Occup Environ Med. 2017 Dec; 59(12): e306-e326.
- [Mortality Among Hardmetal Production Workers: Swedish Measurement Data and Exposure Assessment](#). Westberg H, et al. J Occup Environ Med. 2017 Dec; 59(12): e327-e341.
- [Cancer Incidence Among Hardmetal Production Workers: The Swedish Cohort](#). Svartengren M, et al. J Occup Environ Med. 2017 Dec; 59(12): e365-e373. Free full text

More details can be found on the HSE Work Programme in the ITIA Members' Area and the HSE Database in the public area. Readers are welcome to contact the HSE Secretariat for further information.

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