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The sanitary impact of air pollution in North Africa

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The developing countries are facing deterioration of the air quality; many factors are incremented, the most important are the traffic sector and the rapid industrialization. The situation which prevails in emerging countries is not known enough. In Algeria, every year 10 to 12 million inhabitants consult for acute episodes of respiratory diseases. Number of these episodes is directly linked to exposure to air pollution. A period of April 2013 to March 2015, 20,606 patients were received in our consultations. The respiratory symptoms represent 11.23% of the reason for consultation; more part of patients was female with a mean age of 42. The mean reason for consultation was asthma at 28.51%. The upper respiratory tract infection represented 28.38%. COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease) represented 73.4% of inpatients, essentially people with comorbidity. The daily average level of the PM10 (particulate matter) was 53 μ g/m³. There is a correlation between the daily levels of particles PM10 and the mortality, the hospitalizations and the exacerbation of respiratory symptoms. The impact of the exposure to the PM10 represents 3.4% of all sanitary events. So, a decrease in the PM10 level implies an improvement in public health. Monitoring and management of air pollution is a priority for environmental protection and public health.

Recent Publications

- 1. C Nejjari et al. (2003) Air pollution a new respiratory risk for southern cities. International Journal of Tuberculosis and Lung Disease 7(3):223-231.
- 2. Kim J J et al. (2004) Traffic-related air pollution near busy roads: the East Bay children's respiratory health study. American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine 170(5):520-526.
- 3. Li Xiaoling et al. (2008) Acute alcohol intoxication potentiates neutrophil-mediated intestinal tissue damage after burn injury. Shock 29(3):377-383.
- 4. Yu T S et al. (2001) Adverse effects of low level air pollution on the respiratory health of school children in Hong Kong. Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine 43(4):310-316.
- 5. Y Laïd et al. (2006) Health effects of PM10 air pollution in a low-income country: the case of Algiers. International Journal of Tuberculosis and Lung Disease 10(12):1406-1411.

Biography

Mourad Terniche pursued his PhD from Algiers University and Postdoctoral studies from Algiers University School of Medicine (Algeria). His educational qualification includes Doctor of General Medicine 1996, Diploma of Special Medical Studies (DEMS) in Pneumo-Phthisiology 2001. He is an Assistant Professor in Pneumo-Phthisiology. He has been a speaker at several national and international conferences.

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