



# Overview information for

Nicotine

## NICOTINE REFERENCES

Author Name	Title	Journal	Volume	Page number(s)	Year
Mallock N, Schulz T, Malke S, Drejack N, Laux P, Luch A.	Levels of nicotine and tobacco-specific nitrosamines in oral nicotine pouches	Tobacco Control	33(2)	193-199	2024
Keyser BM, Flockton H, Weidman RA, Payne R, Rowe J, Jordan KG.	In vitro permeation of nicotine and tobacco specific nitrosamines from smokeless tobacco product extracts in a 3D buccal tissue model	Toxicology Letters	392	36-45	2024
Joshi J, Pandit A, Shah F.	Nicotine mediated epithelial modulations: An in-vitro evidence	Journal of Oral Biology and Craniofacial Research	13(6)	796-800	2023
Susanne Back, Anna E Masser, Lars E Rutqvist, Johan Lindholm	Harmful and potentially harmful constituents (HPHCs) in two novel nicotine pouch products in comparison with regular smokeless tobacco products and pharmaceutical nicotine replacement therapy products (NRTs)	BMC chemistry	17(1)	9	2023
Benowitz NL.	The Central Role of pH in the Clinical Pharmacology of Nicotine: Implications for Abuse Liability, Cigarette Harm Reduction and FDA Regulation.	Clin Pharmacol Ther.	May;111(5)	1004-1006	2022
Cheetham AG, Plunkett S, Campbell P, Hilldrup J, Coffa BG, Gilliland S 3rd, Eckard S.	Analysis and differentiation of tobacco-derived and synthetic nicotine products: Addressing an urgent regulatory issue.	PLoS One.	Apr 14;17(4)	e0267049	2022
Horinouchi T, Miwa S.	Comparison of cytotoxicity of cigarette smoke extract derived from heat-not-burn and combustion cigarettes in human vascular endothelial cells.	J Pharmacol Sci.	Nov;147(3)	223-233	2021
MacLean RR, DeVito EE, Eid T, Parida S, Gueorguieva R, Sofuoglu M.	Threshold dose for intravenous nicotine self-administration in young adult non-dependent smokers.	Psychopharmacology (Berl).	Aug;238(8)	2083-2090.	2021

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Ho JTK, Tyndale RF, Baker TB, Amos CI, Chiu A, Smock N, Chen J, Bierut LJ, Chen LS.	Racial disparities in intensity of smoke exposure and nicotine intake among low-dependence smokers.	Drug Alcohol Depend.	Apr 1;221	108641	2021
Kuiper N, Coats EM, Crawford TN, Gammon DG, Loomis B, Watson CH, Melstrom PC, Lavinghouze R, Rogers T, King BA.	Trends in Manufacturer-Reported Nicotine Yields in Cigarettes Sold in the United States, 2013-2016.	Prev Chronic Dis.	Nov 25;17	E148.	2020
Lei X, Goel R, Sun D, Bhangu G, Bitzer ZT, Trushin N, Ma L, Richie JP Jr, Xiu G, Muscat JE.	Free Radical and Nicotine Yields in Mainstream Smoke of Chinese Marketed Cigarettes: Variation with Smoking Regimens and Cigarette Brands.	Chem Res Toxicol.	Jul 20;33(7)	1791-1797	2020
St Helen G, Nardone N, Addo N, Dempsey D, Havel C, Jacob P 3rd, Benowitz NL.	Differences in nicotine intake and effects from electronic and combustible cigarettes among dual users.	Addiction.	Apr;115(4)	757-767.	2020

Smith TT, Koopmeiners JS, Hatsukami DK, Tessier KM, Benowitz NL, Murphy SE, Strasser AA, Tidey JW, Blount BC, Valentin L, Bravo Cardenas R, Watson C, Pirkle JL, Donny EC.	Mouth-Level Nicotine Intake Estimates from Discarded Filter Butts to Examine Compensatory Smoking in Low Nicotine Cigarettes.	Cancer Epidemiol Biomarkers Prev.	Mar;29(3)	643-649.	2020
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Yu C, Yu J, Zhang H, He Z, Sha Y, Liu B, Wang Y.	A facile approach for rapid on-site screening of nicotine in natural tobacco.	Environ Pollut.	259	113841	2020
Benowitz NL, St Helen G, Nardone N, Cox LS, Jacob P.	Urine Metabolites for Estimating Daily Intake of Nicotine From Cigarette Smoking.	Nicotine Tob Res.	22(2)	288-292	2020
Nelson JM, Cuadra GA, Palazzolo DL.	A Comparison of Flavorless Electronic Cigarette-Generated Aerosol and Conventional Cigarette Smoke on the Planktonic Growth of Common Oral Commensal Streptococci.	Int J Environ Res Public Health.	16(24)	5004	2019
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Cai B, Li Z, Wang R, Geng Z, Shi Y, Xie S, Wang Z, Yang Z, Ren X.	Emission level of seven mainstream smoke toxicants from cigarette with variable tobacco leaf constituents.	Regul Toxicol Pharmacol.	103	181-188	2019
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Ha TN, Madison MC, Kheradmand F, Altman KW.	Laryngeal inflammatory response to smoke and vape in a murine model.	Am J Otolaryngol.	40(1)	89-92	2019
Taylor AE, Richmond RC, Palviainen T, Loukola A, Wootton RE, Kaprio J, Relton CL, Davey Smith G, Munaf6 MR.	The effect of body mass index on smoking behaviour and nicotine metabolism: a Mendelian randomization study.	Hum Mol Genet.	28(8)	1322-1330	2019
Mercincavage M, Lochbuehler K, Wileyto EP, Benowitz NL, Tyndale RF, Lerman C, Strasser AA.	Association of Reduced Nicotine Content Cigarettes With Smoking Behaviors and Biomarkers of Exposure Among Slow and Fast Nicotine Metabolizers: A Nonrandomized Clinical Trial.	JAMA Netw Open.	1(4)	e181346. doi: 10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2018.1346	2018

Zhang H, Pang Y, Luo Y, Li X, Chen H, Han S, Jiang X, Zhu F, Hou H, Hu Q	Enantiomeric composition of nicotine in tobacco leaf, cigarette, smokeless tobacco, and e-liquid by normal phase high-performance liquid chromatography	Chirality.	30(7)	923-931	2018
Soule EK, Ramôa C, Eissenberg T, Cobb CO.	Differences in puff topography, toxicant exposure, and subjective response between waterpipe tobacco smoking men and women.	Exp Clin Psychopharmacol.	26(5)	440-447	2018
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Ohshima Y, Iwata K, Ibi M, Matsumoto M, Katsuyama M, Yabe-Nishimura C.	Nicotine and methyl vinyl ketone, major components of cigarette smoke extracts, increase protective amyloid- $\beta$ peptides in cells harboring amyloid- $\beta$ precursor protein.	J Toxicol Sci.	43(4)	257-266	2018
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Kubota M, Yanagita M, Mori K, Hasegawa S, Yamashita M, Yamada S, Kitamura M, Murakami S.	The Effects of Cigarette Smoke Condensate and Nicotine on Periodontal Tissue in a Periodontitis Model Mouse	PLoS One.	11(5)	e0155594	2016
Agnew-Heard KA, Lancaster VA, Bravo R, Watson C, Walters MJ, Holman MR.	Multivariate Statistical Analysis of Cigarette Design Feature Influence on ISO TNCO Yields	Chem Res Toxicol.	29(6)	1051-63	2016



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Tilp C, Bucher H, Haas H, Duechs MJ, Wex E, Erb KJ.	Effects of conventional tobacco smoke and nicotine-free cigarette smoke on airway inflammation, airway remodelling and lung function in a triple allergen model of severe asthma	Clin Exp Allergy.	46(7)	957-72	2016
Picavet P, Haziza C, Laman N, Weitkunat R, Lüdicke F.	Comparison of the Pharmacokinetics of Nicotine Following Single and Ad Libitum Use of a Tobacco Heating System or Combustible Cigarettes	Nicotine Tob Res. May;	18(5)	557-63	2016
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Thorne D, Dalrymple A, Dillon D, Duke M, Meredith C.	A comparative assessment of cigarette smoke aerosols using an in vitro air-liquid interface cytotoxicity test.	Inhal Toxicol.	27(12)	629-40	2015
Marco E, Grimalt JO.	A rapid method for the chromatographic analysis of volatile organic compounds in exhaled breath of tobacco cigarette and electronic cigarette smokers	J Chromatogr A. 10.1016	1410	51-9	2015
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Tilp C, Bucher H, Haas H, Duechs MJ, Wex E, Erb KJ.	Effects of conventional tobacco smoke and nicotine-free cigarette smoke on airway inflammation, airway remodeling and lung function in a triple allergen model of severe asthma	Clin Exp Allergy	e-publication		2015
Ferrari M, Zanasi A, Nardi E, Morselli Labate AM, Ceriana P, Balestrino A, Pisani L, Corcione N, Nava S	Short-term effects of a nicotine-free e-cigarette compared to a traditional cigarette in smokers and non-smokers	BMC Pulm Med.	e-publication		2015

Benowitz NL, Nardone N, Dains KM, Hall SM, Stewart S, Dempsey D, Jacob P 3rd.	Effect of reducing the nicotine content of cigarettes on cigarette smoking behavior and tobacco smoke toxicant exposure: 2-year follow up.	Addiction	110(10)	1667-75	2015
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Zuo Y, Mukhin AG, Garg S, Nazih R, Behm FM, Garg PK, Rose JE.	Sex-specific effects of cigarette mentholation on brain nicotine accumulation and smoking behavior	Neuropsychopharmaco logy	40(4)	884-92	2015
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Ashley M, Dixon M, Prasad K.	Relationship between cigarette format and mouth-level exposure to tar and nicotine in smokers of Russian king- size cigarettes	Regulatory Toxicology and Pharmacology	70(1)	430-7	2014
Jarvis MJ, Giovino GA, O'Connor RJ, Kozlowski LT, Bernert JT.	Variation in nicotine intake among U.S. cigarette smokers during the past 25 years: evidence from NHANES surveys.	Nicotine & Tobacco Research	16(12)	1620-8	2014

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Hammond David; O'Connor Richard J	Reduced Nicotine Cigarettes: Smoking Behavior and Biomarkers of Exposure among Smokers Not Intending to Quit.	Cancer epidemiology, biomarkers & prevention	23	2032-40	2014
Koszowski Bartosz; Rosenberry Zachary R; Viray Lauren C; Potts Jennifer L; Pickworth Wallace B	Make your own cigarettes: toxicant exposure, smoking topography, and subjective effects.	Cancer epidemiology, biomarkers & prevention	23	1793-803	2014
Naik Pooja; Fofaria Neel; Prasad Shikha; Sajja Ravi K; Weksler Babette; Couraud Pierre-Olivier; Romero Ignacio A; Cucullo Luca	Oxidative and pro-inflammatory impact of regular and denicotinized cigarettes on blood brain barrier endothelial cells: is smoking reduced or nicotine-free products really safe?.	BMC neuroscience	15	51	2014
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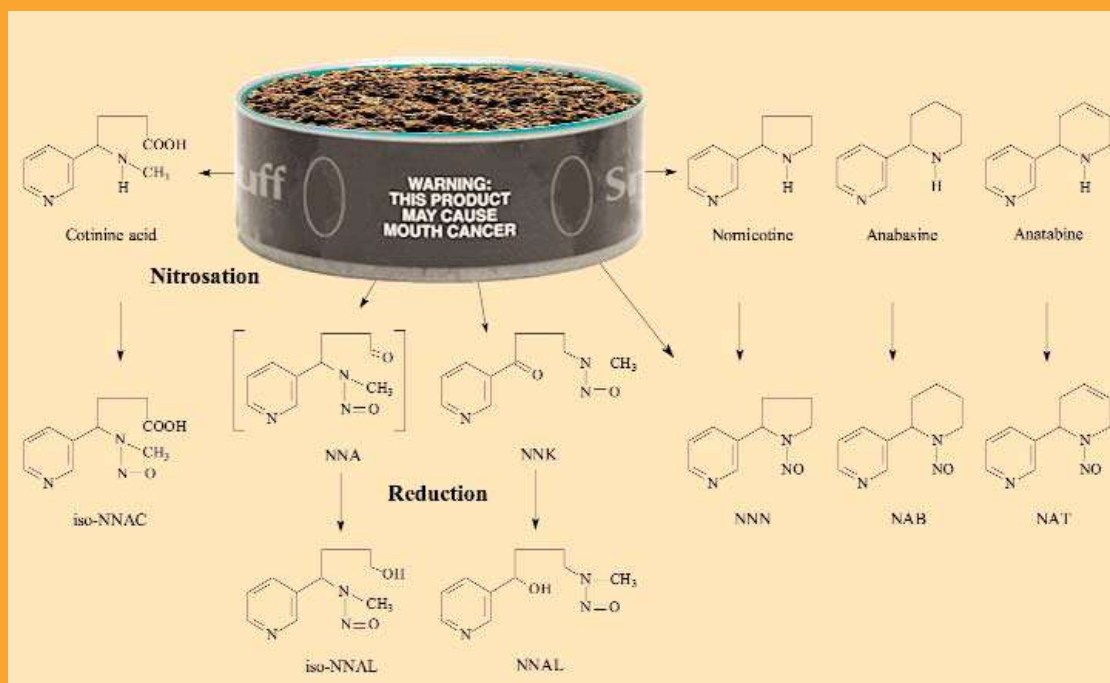
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# ***IARC Monographs on the Evaluation of Carcinogenic Risks to Humans***

## **VOLUME 89**

### **Smokeless Tobacco and Some Tobacco-specific *N*-Nitrosamines**



LYON, FRANCE  
2007

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION  
INTERNATIONAL AGENCY FOR RESEARCH ON CANCER



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This publication represents the views and expert opinions  
of an IARC Working Group on the  
Evaluation of Carcinogenic Risks to Humans,  
which met in Lyon,

5–12 October 2004

2007

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In 1969, the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) initiated a programme on the evaluation of the carcinogenic risk of chemicals to humans involving the production of critically evaluated monographs on individual chemicals. The programme was subsequently expanded to include evaluations of carcinogenic risks associated with exposures to complex mixtures, life-style factors and biological and physical agents, as well as those in specific occupations.

The objective of the programme is to elaborate and publish in the form of monographs critical reviews of data on carcinogenicity for agents to which humans are known to be exposed and on specific exposure situations; to evaluate these data in terms of human risk with the help of international working groups of experts in chemical carcinogenesis and related fields; and to indicate where additional research efforts are needed.

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This programme has been supported by Cooperative Agreement 5 UO1 CA33193 awarded since 1982 by the United States National Cancer Institute, Department of Health and Human Services. Additional support has been provided since 1986 by the European Commission, Directorate-General EMPL (Employment, and Social Affairs), Health, Safety and Hygiene at Work Unit, and since 1992 by the United States National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences.

Published by the International Agency for Research on Cancer,  
150 cours Albert Thomas, 69372 Lyon Cedex 08, France  
©International Agency for Research on Cancer, 2007

Distributed by WHO Press, World Health Organization, 20 Avenue Appia, 1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland  
(tel.: +41 22 791 3264; fax: +41 22 791 4857; e-mail: [bookorders@who.int](mailto:bookorders@who.int)).

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The IARC Monographs Working Group alone is responsible for the views expressed in this publication.

### IARC Library Cataloguing in Publication Data

Smokeless Tobacco and Some Tobacco-specific *N*-Nitrosamines/

IARC Working Group on the Evaluation of Carcinogenic Risks to Humans (2004 : Lyon, France)

(IARC monographs on the evaluation of carcinogenic risks to humans ; v. 89)

1. Carcinogens 2. Nitrosamines – adverse effects

3. Tobacco, Smokeless – adverse effects

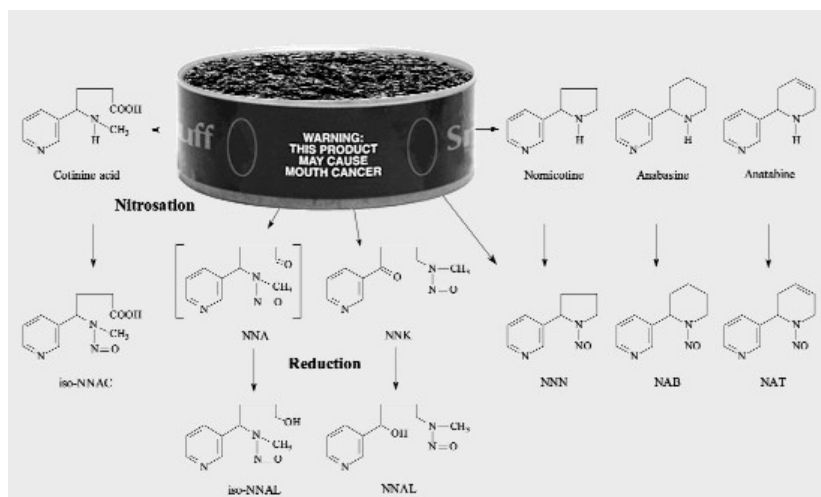
I. IARC Working Group on the Evaluation of Carcinogenic Risks to Humans II. Series

ISBN 978 92 832 1289 8

(NLM Classification: W1)

ISSN 1017-1606

PRINTED IN FRANCE



*Cover legend:*

Schematic diagramme of the metabolism of nicotine, an addictive chemical present in all tobacco products. The tobacco-specific *N*-nitrosamines NNK, NNN, NAB and NAT are reviewed in the second Monograph of this volume.

# SMOKELESS TOBACCO

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Smokeless tobacco was considered by a previous IARC Working Group in 2004 ([IARC, 2007a](#)). Since that time, new data have become available, these have been incorporated into the *Monograph*, and taken into consideration in the present evaluation.

## 1. Exposure Data

### 1.1 Smokeless tobacco products

The term smokeless tobacco implies use of unburned tobacco in the finished products. A variety of smokeless tobacco products are available, for oral or nasal use. Products intended for oral use are sucked, chewed (dipped), gargled or applied to the gums or teeth, while fine tobacco mixtures are usually inhaled into the nostrils.

[Table 1.1](#) summarizes for each smokeless tobacco product its mode of use, the main ingredients included, the WHO regions in which the product is used, and some specification of the countries in which the product is used most commonly or specifically ([DHHS, 2001](#); [IARC, 2007a](#); [European Commission, 2008](#)). Smokeless tobacco products that contain areca nut are commonly used in India, other countries in South Asia, and in migrant populations from these countries. These products may be mentioned here for comparison but are reviewed in the *Monograph* on Betel Quid and Areca Nut in this volume.

### 1.2 Chemical composition of smokeless tobacco

The tobacco used in a particular product has a decisive influence on its chemical composition, and varies with tobacco species, growing, curing, processing and storage. During product manufacture, tobacco is blended to achieve a specific nicotine content and pH. The pH strongly influences the concentration of unprotonated nicotine, the bioavailable form of nicotine, while the nitrite/nitrate content strongly influences the levels of carcinogenic nitrosamines in the product. Other tobacco components are alkaloids which include nicotine (85–95% of total alkaloids), terpenes, polyphenols, phytosterols, carboxylic acids, aromatic hydrocarbons, aldehydes, ketones, amines, nitriles, *N*- and *O*-heterocyclic hydrocarbons, pesticides, and metallic compounds. Flavour-type additives are also present ([Bates et al., 1999](#)). Ammonia, ammonium carbonate and sodium carbonate are applied to control nicotine delivery by raising pH and subsequently the level of unprotonated nicotine which is most readily absorbed through the mouth into the bloodstream ([Djordjevic et al., 1995](#)).

**Table 1.1 Smokeless tobacco products, ingredients, and use by WHO region**

Tobacco product	Mode of use	Ingredients	WHO Region					
			AFRO	AMRO	EMRO	EURO	SEARO	WPRO
Oral use								
Betel quid with tobacco <sup>a</sup>	Chewing	Betel leaf, areca nut, slaked lime, tobacco in various forms			X		X	X
<i>Chimó</i>	Sucking	Paste of crushed and boiled tobacco leaves, sodium bicarbonate, sugar, wood ash, flavourings		X <sup>b</sup>				
Chewing tobacco	Chewing	See Tobacco chewing gum						
Chewing tobacco twist/roll	Chewing	Dark, air- or fire-cured tobacco leaves treated with tobacco extract, flavourings		X <sup>c</sup>				
Creamy snuff	Other	Finely ground tobacco with aromatic substances (manufactured commercially)					X	
Dry snuff	Sucking	Fire- or air-cured, fermented powdered tobacco	X <sup>d</sup>	X <sup>c</sup>	X <sup>e</sup>	X <sup>f</sup>	X <sup>g</sup>	
<i>Gudhaku</i>	Other	Paste of powdered tobacco and molasses					X <sup>g</sup>	
<i>Gul</i>	Other	Powdered tobacco, molasses and other ingredients					X <sup>g</sup>	
<i>Gutka</i> <sup>a</sup>	Sucking	Sun-dried finely chopped tobacco, areca nut, slaked lime, catechu, flavourings, sweeteners (manufactured commercially)					X	
<i>Iq'mik</i>	Chewing	Fire-cured tobacco leaves with punk ash		X <sup>h</sup>				
<i>Khaini</i>	Sucking	Sun-dried or fermented coarsely crushed tobacco leaves					X <sup>i</sup>	
<i>Khiwam</i>	Chewing	Paste of tobacco extract, spices, additives					X <sup>j</sup>	
<i>Loose leaf</i>	Chewing	Small strips of air-cured, shredded cigar tobacco leaves (manufactured commercially)		X <sup>c</sup>		X		
<i>Maraş</i>	Sucking	Sun-dried powdered tobacco leaves, wood ash, water				X <sup>k</sup>		
<i>Mawa</i> <sup>a</sup>	Chewing	Sun-cured areca nut, crushed tobacco leaves, slaked lime					X <sup>j</sup>	
<i>Mishri</i>	Sucking	Tobacco toasted on hot metal plate and powdered					X <sup>g</sup>	
Moist snuff	Sucking	Air- or fire-cured tobacco, processed into fine particles (fine-cut) or strips (long-cut), with stem and seeds		X <sup>c</sup>		X <sup>l</sup>		
<i>Naswar/nass</i>	Sucking	Sun-dried, powdered tobacco, ash, oil, flavourings, colourings, slaked lime (optional)	X <sup>d</sup>		X <sup>m</sup>	X		
Plug chewing tobacco	Chewing	Heavy-grade or cigar tobacco top leaves immersed in liquorice or sugar, pressed into a plug		X <sup>c</sup>				
Red tooth powder	Other	Fine tobacco powder, many additional ingredients (manufactured commercially)					X	
<i>Shammah</i>	Sucking	Powdered tobacco, lime, ash, black pepper, oils, flavourings			X <sup>n</sup>	X		
<i>Snus</i>	-	See moist stuff		X <sup>c</sup>		X <sup>l</sup>		



Table 1.1 (continued)

Tobacco product	Mode of use	Ingredients	WHO Region				
			AFRO	AMRO	EMRO	EURO	WPRO
<i>Saffa</i>	-	<i>Toombak</i> rolled into a ball	X <sup>q</sup>				
Tobacco tablet	Sucking	Compressed powdered tobacco, mint, eucalyptus		X <sup>c</sup>			
<i>Toombak</i>	Sucking	Dried, fermented, ground and matured tobacco leaves, sodium bicarbonate	X <sup>q</sup>				
<i>Tuibur</i>	Other	Tobacco water				X <sup>r</sup>	
<i>Zarda</i>	Chewing	Tobacco leaves boiled with lime and spices until dry, colourings; chewed with areca nut and spices			X		X
<b>Nasal use</b>							
Dry snuff	Sniffing	Fire-cured, fermented and powdered tobacco	X <sup>s</sup>		X	X <sup>t</sup>	X
Liquid snuff	Sniffing	Powered tobacco mixed with ash from plants, oil, lemon juice, herbs	X <sup>u</sup>				

<sup>a</sup> These products contain areca nut and are reviewed in the *Monograph* on Betel Quid and Areca Nut in this volume.

<sup>b</sup> Specific to Venezuela, used by young boys and urban teenagers

<sup>c</sup> Used in the USA

<sup>d</sup> Used principally in South Africa; dry snuff is mostly inhaled.

<sup>e</sup> Common in North Africa, notably in Tunisia as *sniffa*

<sup>f</sup> Used in Germany, Georgia and the United Kingdom

<sup>g</sup> Used as dentifrice, mostly by women, in various parts of India

<sup>h</sup> Specific to native American tribes of North-West Alaska

<sup>i</sup> Used in India, Bangladesh and Nepal

<sup>j</sup> Specific to India

<sup>k</sup> Specific to remote regions of Turkey

<sup>l</sup> Used in Sweden, Norway and Finland

<sup>m</sup> Common in Afghanistan, Islamic Republic of Iran, Pakistan and central Asia

<sup>n</sup> Common in the Middle East, particularly in Saudi Arabia and Yemen

<sup>o</sup> Used in Sweden and Denmark

<sup>p</sup> Specific to Japan (new product)

<sup>q</sup> Specific to Sudan, used by men

<sup>r</sup> Specific to eastern States of India

<sup>s</sup> Used by several tribes in South Africa, namely Bantus

<sup>t</sup> Used in the United Kingdom

<sup>u</sup> Specific to tribes in East Africa

AFRO, African Region; AMRO, Regions of the Americas; EMRO, Eastern Mediterranean Region; EURO, European Region; SEARO, South East Asian Region, WPRO, Western Pacific Region; the countries included in each region are available at <http://www.who.int/about/regions/en/>

### 1.2.1 Nicotine content in smokeless tobacco

The majority of commercial tobacco products are made from *N. tabacum* species, grown throughout the world with an alkaloid content that varies greatly. In randomly cultivated varieties examined, the alkaloid content ranged between 0.17 and 4.93%.

*N. rustica* species is cultivated in eastern Europe, Asia Minor and Africa, and the cured leaves may contain up to 12% nicotine. *Toombak* from Sudan, which contains *N. rustica* tobacco, had the highest reported levels of nicotine (Idris *et al.*, 1991; Prokopczyk *et al.*, 1995). In 17 brands of moist snuff from the USA, the nicotine content ranged from 0.47 to 3.43%. The nicotine content of Swedish snus ranges from 0.5–1.7% (Idris *et al.*, 1998; Stepanov *et al.*, 2008).

### 1.2.2 Carcinogenic compounds in smokeless tobacco

Multiple carcinogens have been identified in smokeless tobacco (IARC, 2007a) including:

#### (a) Tobacco-specific *N*-nitrosamines

Tobacco-specific *N*-nitrosamines include the carcinogens *N*'-nitrosonornicotine (NNN), and 4-(methylnitrosamino)-1-(3-pyridyl)-1-butanone (NNK).

Tobacco-specific *N*-nitrosamines are formed from tobacco alkaloids (nicotine, nornicotine, anatabine, anabasine, and nitrite) primarily during tobacco curing, fermentation and ageing. The nitrate or nitrite content, the mode of curing and the various steps of processing are the main determining factors for the yields of tobacco-specific *N*-nitrosamines in tobacco.

IARC (2007a) compiled an international comparison of the concentrations of NNN and NNK in smokeless tobacco products. The ranges vary widely and are product- and country-specific. In some moist snuff brands in the USA, the highest concentrations of NNN and NNK

measured were 135 and 17.8 µg/g tobacco, respectively. In home-made *toombak* from Sudan, values as high as 3085 and 7870 µg/g dry wt tobacco, respectively, have been reported (Idris *et al.*, 1991; Prokopczyk *et al.*, 1995).

#### (b) *N*-Nitrosamino acids

The amino acids present in tobacco, and probably also the proteins with secondary amino groups, are amenable to *N*-nitrosation. Since 1985, numerous studies have reported the presence of *N*-nitrosamino acids in smokeless tobacco products (IARC, 2007a).

To date, 11 *N*-nitrosamino acids have been identified in smokeless tobacco: *N*-nitrososarcosine (NSAR), *N*-nitrosoazetidine-4-carboxylic acid (NAzCA), 3-(methylnitrosamino)propionic acid (MNPA), 4-(methylnitrosamino)butyric acid (MNBA), *N*-nitrosoproline (NPRO), *N*-nitrosohydroxyproline (NHPRO), *N*-nitrosopiperic acid (NPIC), *N*-nitrosothiazolidine-4-carboxylic acid (NTCA), *N*-nitroso-2-methylthiazolidine-4-carboxylic acid (MNTCA), 4-(methylnitrosamino)-4-(3-pyridyl)butyric acid (*iso*-NNAC) and 2-(methylnitrosamino)-3-phenylpropionic acid (MNPhPA) (Ohshima *et al.*, 1985; Tricker & Preussmann, 1988; Hoffmann *et al.*, 1995). Of these, NSAR, MNPA, MNBA and NAzCA have been established as carcinogens in experimental animals.

The concentration of *N*-nitrosamino acids depends on the nitrate or nitrite content of tobacco; they are formed during prolonged storage, particularly under adverse conditions of temperature and relative humidity. The concentrations reported in USA moist snuff samples were in the range of 5.7 to 13.45 µg/g dry wt. Highest amounts of MNPA were found in Indian *zarda* (up to 18 µg/g) and in moist snuff (up to 70 µg/g).

**Table 1.2 PAHs in moist snuff brands marketed in the USA**

Compound	Mean $\pm$ SD of 23 brands (ng/g dry weight)
Naphthalene	1726 $\pm$ 392.3
Acenaphthylene	110.5 $\pm$ 42.9
Acenaphthene	105.1 $\pm$ 53.8
Fluorene	826.5 $\pm$ 287.0
Phenanthrene	4700 $\pm$ 1571
Anthracene	844.2 $\pm$ 277.8
Fluoranthene	1404 $\pm$ 537.4
Pyrene	1292 $\pm$ 428.5
Benz[a]anthracene	193.6 $\pm$ 71.3
Chrysene	232.1 $\pm$ 109.8
Methylchrysenes	92.6 $\pm$ 35.0
Benzo[b]fluoranthene + Benzo[f]fluoranthene	107.0 $\pm$ 69.5
Benzo[k]fluoranthene	19.6 $\pm$ 6.6
Benzo[e]pyrene	52.4 $\pm$ 23.8
Benzo[a]pyrene	55.8 $\pm$ 21.5
Indeno[1,2,3-cd]pyrene	20.5 $\pm$ 12.1
Benzo[ghi]perylene	18.0 $\pm$ 8.3
Dibenz[a,h]anthracene	7.5 $\pm$ 1.9

From [Stepanov et al. \(2010\)](#)

#### (c) Volatile N-nitrosamines

These include N-nitrosodimethylamine (NDMA), N-nitrosopyrrolidine (NPYR) and N-nitrosopiperidine (NPIP).

Levels of volatile N-nitrosamines formed from volatile amines and nitrosating agents in smokeless tobacco products worldwide have been summarized ([IARC, 2007a](#)). The highest amounts were found in moist snuff (NDMA up to 265 ng/g dry wt and NPYR up to 860 ng/g dry wt).

#### (d) PAHs

These include benzo[a]pyrene, benz[a]anthracene, chrysene, benzo[fluoranthene], and dibenz[a,h]anthracene.

Levels of various PAHs in 23 moist snuff brands marketed in the USA were determined by [Stepanov et al. \(2010\)](#) and are summarized in [Table 1.2](#).

#### (e) Other carcinogenic compounds and constituents

Levels of the volatile aldehydes formaldehyde, acetaldehyde, acrolein and crotonaldehyde in smokeless tobacco products ranged from 0.207–10.6, 0.97–72.3, 0.27–7.85, and 0.55–19.4  $\mu$ g/g dry weight tobacco, respectively ([Stepanov et al., 2010](#)).

Uranium was reported in Indian snuff at a concentration of about 3 pCi/g tobacco ([Sharma et al., 1985](#)). Levels of polonium-210 in commercial moist and dry snuff in the USA were reported to be 0.16–1.22 and 0.23–0.39 pCi/g, respectively.

In several parts of the world, smokeless tobacco is invariably chewed with lime which is responsible for highly alkaline pH ([Nair et al., 1990, 1992](#)), facilitating absorption of nicotine in the oral mucosa.

### 1.2.3 Comparison of new and traditional smokeless tobacco products

Newer types of smokeless tobacco products are appearing on the market. These products are sold as small pouches and do not require spitting. Similar to Swedish snus, they have been manufactured with additional controls to inhibit nitrosamine formation, and are being promoted as reduced risk products. Levels of carcinogens in these newer products are compared to those in traditional products in [Table 1.3](#) ([Stepanov et al., 2008](#)).

## 1.3 Prevalence of use

### 1.3.1 Prevalence of smokeless tobacco use among adults

Several surveys have evaluated the prevalence of smokeless tobacco use at different times and targeting different populations in the WHO regions (AFRO, African Region; AMRO, Region of the Americas; EURO, European Region; EMRO, Eastern Mediterranean Region; SEARO,

**Table 1.3 Mean levels of selected carcinogens in newer and traditional smokeless tobacco products**

	Newer products ( <i>n</i> = 12)	Traditional products ( <i>n</i> = 5)
NNN (µg/g dry weight)	2.05	4.41
NNK (µg/g dry weight)	0.231	1.20
Benzo[ <i>a</i> ]pyrene (ng/g dry weight)	3.12	38.2
Fluoranthene	10.0	400
Benzo[ <i>b</i> ]fluoranthene + Benzo[ <i>k</i> ]fluoranthene (ng/g dry weight)	2.76	38.3
Formaldehyde (µg/g dry weight)	3.23	8.43
Acetaldehyde (µg/g dry weight)	6.16	35.7
Crotonaldehyde (µg/g dry weight)	9.12	2.98

NNN, *N*'-nitrososornicotine; NNK, 4-(methylnitrosamino)-1-(3-pyridyl)-1-butanone

From [Stepanov et al. \(2008\)](#)

South-East Asian Region; WPRO, Western Pacific Region). The major surveys that form the basis of this report are ([Table 1.4](#)):

- the Global Adult Tobacco Survey conducted during 2009–10 among adults aged 15 years or more in 14 middle and low-income countries in AMRO, SEARO, EURO, EMRO and WPRO;
- the national level STEPS noncommunicable risk factor survey (2006–09) was conducted in 8 countries in AFRO, and a few countries in SEARO, EURO (Georgia), EMRO and WPRO (Mongolia), in adults aged 15–64 years, except for AFRO (age group, 25–64 years);
- the Demographic and Health Surveys (2003–10) provide prevalence on smokeless tobacco use among adults aged 15–49 years in countries in AFRO (16), EURO (4), EMRO (2), WPRO (8);
- some other surveys such as the Behavioural Risk Factor Survey, the National Smoking/Tobacco/Drug use Survey, health cost studies, and national health, public health or morbidity surveys.

The prevalence of smokeless tobacco use reported in the various surveys are not directly comparable because of the different methodologies

and time periods; however, they provide a snapshot of the global smokeless tobacco burden. Large variations are observed between countries ([Table 1.5](#)), between sex within a country, and sometimes within a country ([Table 1.6](#)). Those countries with a high prevalence ( $\geq 10\%$ ) represent about 25% of the global adult population. They include, by WHO region:

- in AFRO: Benin (men, 13%), Madagascar (men 23%; women, 20%), Mauritania (women, 28%), South Africa (women, 11%);
- in EMRO: Yemen (men, 15%);
- in EURO: Norway (men, 17.0%; women, 5.0%), Sweden (men, 26%), Uzbekistan (men, 22.5%);
- in SEARO: Bangladesh (men, 26%; women, 28%), India (men, 33%; women 11–18%), Myanmar (men, 51.4%; women, 16.1%), Nepal (men, 31%), Sri Lanka (men, 24.9%);
- in WPRO: Cambodia (women, 12.7%).

A few countries have medium prevalence (between 5% and 10%); these include:

- in AFRO: Benin, Cape Verde, Malawi in women; Lesotho, Mali, Mauritania, Swaziland, Zimbabwe in men;
- in AMRO: USA in men;

- in EMRO: Tunisia in men; Yemen in women;
- in EURO: Finland, Iceland and Kyrgyzstan in men; Norway and Sweden in women;
- in SEARO: Sri Lanka and Thailand in women.

In most countries, current prevalence of smokeless tobacco use is higher among men than among women. Some exceptions are found at all levels of prevalence (in women and men, respectively): Bangladesh (27.9, 26.9), Barbados (0.6, 0), Cambodia (12.7, 0.7), Cape Verde (5.8, 3.5), Malaysia (3.1, 0.5), Mauritania (28.3, 5.7), South Africa (10.9, 2.4), Thailand (6.3, 1.3) and Viet Nam (2.3, 0.3).

Demographic health survey data indicate that in countries in AFRO and SEARO smokeless tobacco is more prevalent in rural compared to urban areas, and higher among low-income compared to high-income groups. Also, prevalence generally increases with increasing age.

Some countries warrant more detailed information of their pattern of smokeless tobacco use, and are presented below.

### 1.3.2 Country specific data

#### (a) India

The India Global Adult Tobacco Survey (2009–10) revealed that 26% of all adults use smokeless tobacco in some form, 21.4% daily and 4.5% occasionally. Prevalence in men (32.9%) is higher than in women (18.4%), and is higher in rural (29.3%) than urban areas (17.7%). Large variations are observed between States, from around 5% in Himachal Pradesh, Goa and Chandigarh to 49% in Bihar (India GATS Report, 2009–10).

*Khaini* is the most commonly used smokeless tobacco product (11.6%), followed by *gutka* (8.2%). Prevalence of *khaini* chewing is significantly higher among men (18%) than among women (5%); 13.1% men and 2.9% women chew *gutka*; 6.2% (7.5% men, 4.9% women) of adults use betel quid with tobacco; 4.7% (3.3% men, 6.3%

women) use tobacco products such as *mishri*, *gul*, *gudakhu* for oral application (dentifrice); and 4.4% uses some other products, such as snuff for nasal application and some local products. The pattern of use of smokeless tobacco products also varies widely in different States of India ([Table 1.6](#)) (India GATS Report, 2009–10).

Proportion of dual tobacco users (smoking+smokeless) is 19.4% among men and 5.3% among women ([Sinha et al., 2011](#)).

#### (b) Bangladesh

In Bangladesh the most prevalent form of smokeless tobacco is betel quid with tobacco (24.3%), followed by *gul* (5.3%), *sada pata* (1.8%), *khaini* (1.5%) and others (1.4%) (BAN GATS Report, 2009). Use decreases with increasing education and socioeconomic level in both men and women, by a steeper rate among women compared to men. Among current users, those with the highest prevalence of use of *gul* and *khaini* were labourers among men (7.5% and 2.8%, respectively) and homemaker among women (5.7% and 1.4%, respectively) (BAN GATS Report, 2009).

Proportion of dual tobacco users (smoking+smokeless) is 22.5% among men and 2.5% among women ([Sinha et al., 2011](#)).

#### (c) Canada

Unchanged from surveys conducted in 2008 and 2009, 8% of Canadians aged 15 years and older reported having ever tried smokeless tobacco products in 2010. In 2009, 11% of young adults aged 20 to 24 years reported ever using smokeless tobacco and 1% having used it within the past 30 days. There has been a shift in the distribution of past-30-day smokeless tobacco users from youth towards older adults: in 2003, 23% of users were aged 15–19 years and 14% were older than 45 years, whereas in 2009, 16% of smokeless tobacco users were 15 to 19 years old and 33% were aged 45 and older.



**Table 1.4 Surveys and articles used to compile the information presented\***

Bangladesh GATS report Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare; World Health Organization, Country Office for Bangladesh. Global Adult Tobacco Survey: Bangladesh Report 2009. Dhaka, 2009. <a href="http://www.searo.who.int/LinkFiles/Regional_Tobacco_Surveillance_System_GATSBAN_FullReport2009.pdf">http://www.searo.who.int/LinkFiles/Regional_Tobacco_Surveillance_System_GATSBAN_FullReport2009.pdf</a>
Canada CTUMS Canadian Tobacco Use Monitoring Survey (CTUMS) 2010, <a href="http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/hc-ps/tobac-tabac/research-recherche/stat/_ctums-esutcs_2010/ann_summary-sommaire-eng.php">http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/hc-ps/tobac-tabac/research-recherche/stat/_ctums-esutcs_2010/ann_summary-sommaire-eng.php</a>
Central Statistical Office (CSO) [Swaziland], and Macro International Inc. 2008. <i>Swaziland Demographic and Health Survey 2006–07</i> . Mbabane, Swaziland: Central Statistical Office and Macro International Inc. <a href="http://www.measuredhs.com/pubs/pdf/FR202/FR202.pdf">http://www.measuredhs.com/pubs/pdf/FR202/FR202.pdf</a>
Central Statistical Office (CSO) [Zimbabwe] and Macro International Inc. 2007. <i>Zimbabwe Demographic and Health Survey 2005–06</i> . Calverton, Maryland: CSO and Macro International Inc. <a href="http://www.measuredhs.com/pubs/pdf/FR186/FR186.pdf">http://www.measuredhs.com/pubs/pdf/FR186/FR186.pdf</a>
Central Statistical Office (CSO), Ministry of Health (health ministry), Tropical Diseases Research Centre (TDR), University of Zambia, and Macro International Inc. 2009. <i>Zambia Demographic and Health Survey 2007</i> . Calverton, Maryland, USA: CSO and Macro International Inc. <a href="http://www.measuredhs.com/pubs/pdf/FR211/FR211[revised-05-12-2009].pdf">http://www.measuredhs.com/pubs/pdf/FR211/FR211[revised-05-12-2009].pdf</a>
Department of Health, Medical Research Council, OrcMacro. 2007. <i>South Africa Demographic and Health Survey 2003</i> . Pretoria: Department of Health. <a href="http://www.measuredhs.com/pubs/pdf/FR206/FR206.pdf">http://www.measuredhs.com/pubs/pdf/FR206/FR206.pdf</a>
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Global Tobacco epidemic report World Health Organization. World Report on the Global Tobacco Epidemic, 2009: Implementing Smoke-Free Environments. Geneva: WHO, 2009.
Global Tobacco epidemic report World Health Organization. World Report on the Global Tobacco Epidemic, 2011. Geneva: WHO, 2011.
India GATS report Government of India, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Global Adult Tobacco Survey: GATS India 2009–2010. Mumbai, 2010. <a href="http://www.searo.who.int/LinkFiles/Regional_Tobacco_Surveillance_System_GATS_India.pdf">http://www.searo.who.int/LinkFiles/Regional_Tobacco_Surveillance_System_GATS_India.pdf</a>
Institut National de la Statistique (INSTAT) et ICF Macro. 2010. <i>Enquête Démographique et de Santé de Madagascar 2008–2009</i> . Antananarivo, Madagascar: INSTAT et ICF Macro. <a href="http://www.measuredhs.com/pubs/pdf/FR236/FR236.pdf">http://www.measuredhs.com/pubs/pdf/FR236/FR236.pdf</a>
Institut National de la Statistique et de l'Analyse Économique (INSAE) [Bénin] et Macro International Inc. 2007. <i>Enquête Démographique et de Santé (EDSB-III) – Bénin 2006</i> . Calverton, Maryland, USA: Institut National de la Statistique et de l'Analyse Économique et Macro International Inc. <a href="http://www.measuredhs.com/publications/publication-FR197-DHS-Final-Reports.cfm">http://www.measuredhs.com/publications/publication-FR197-DHS-Final-Reports.cfm</a>
Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) and ICF Macro. 2010. <i>Kenya Demographic and Health Survey 2008–09</i> . Calverton, Maryland: KNBS and ICF Macro. <a href="http://www.measuredhs.com/publications/publication-FR229-DHS-Final-Reports.cfm">http://www.measuredhs.com/publications/publication-FR229-DHS-Final-Reports.cfm</a>
Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services (LISGIS) [Liberia], Ministry of Health and Social Welfare [Liberia], National AIDS Control Program [Liberia], and Macro International Inc. 2008. <i>Liberia Demographic and Health Survey 2007</i> . Monrovia, Liberia: Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services (LISGIS) and Macro International Inc. <a href="http://www.measuredhs.com/publications/publication-FR201-DHS-Final-Reports.cfm">http://www.measuredhs.com/publications/publication-FR201-DHS-Final-Reports.cfm</a>
Lund M, Lindbak R. <i>Norwegian Tobacco Statistics 1973–2006</i> . Oslo: Norwegian Institute for Alcohol and Drug Research; 2007. Sirus skrifter No. 3/2007.
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Ministry of Health and Social Welfare (MOHSW) [Lesotho] and ICF Macro. 2010. <i>Lesotho Demographic and Health Survey 2009</i> . Maseru, Lesotho: MOHSW and ICF Macro. <a href="http://www.measuredhs.com/publications/publication-FR241-DHS-Final-Reports.cfm">http://www.measuredhs.com/publications/publication-FR241-DHS-Final-Reports.cfm</a>

**Table 1.4 (continued)**

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\*, Exceptionally, the most recent updates of well established ongoing surveys and reports, published after the meeting, were included in this *Monograph*. The methodology and data available at the time of the meeting were reviewed by the Working Group; the updates reflect the most current estimates of prevalence of exposure and therefore have no influence on the final evaluation.

**Table 1.5 Highest and lowest prevalence of smokeless tobacco use by WHO regions and by sex**

WHO region	Men		Women	
	Lowest	Highest	Lowest	Highest
AFRO	0.8% in Gambia	22.6% in Madagascar	0.2% in Ghana	28.3% in Mauritania
AMRO	0.0% in Barbados	6.9% in USA	0.2% in Guyana & Dominican Republic	0.6% in Barbados
EMRO	1.3% in Saudi Arabia	15.1% in Yemen	0.1% in Libyan	6.2% in Yemen
EURO	0.2% in Switzerland & Latvia	26.0% in Sweden	0% in Switzerland & Ukraine	5% in Kyrgyzstan
SEARO	1.3% in Thailand	51.4% in Myanmar	0.3% in Indonesia	27.9% in Bangladesh
WPRO	0.3% in Viet Nam	2.8% in Mongolia & Philippines	0.1% in the People's Republic of China	12.7% in Cambodia

*(d) USA*

According to the Behavioural Risk Factor Surveillance System survey (2008), conducted in 13 States, prevalence varied from 0.5% (New Jersey) to 8.8% (West Virginia). Dual use of cigarette and smokeless tobacco products varied from 0.2% (Delaware) to 1.8% (West Virginia).

In an overall analysis of users' demographic characteristics, prevalence of smokeless tobacco use was higher among men (6.3%) than women (0.3%); more prevalent among non-Hispanic whites (4.1%) compared to other ethnic groups; highest in the youngest age group (18–24 years) and decreased steadily with age. Users of smokeless tobacco were almost equally distributed between the sextiles of annual income (3.0 to 3.8%).

*(e) Europe*

In Europe, countries with a high prevalence of smokeless tobacco use are Norway, Sweden and Uzbekistan.

In Sweden, a 10-year follow-up study of smoking and snus [Swedish moist snuff] habits in a middle-aged Swedish population showed that use of snus increased from 3.1% to 6.0% among women and from 24.6% to 26.3% among men. The number of people who used both snus and cigarettes was stable: 0.5% to 0.8% from baseline

to follow-up for women and 4.1% to 3.3% for men. Whereas nearly all snus users in Sweden are daily users, almost half of snus users in Norway use it only occasionally.

*1.3.3 Prevalence of smokeless tobacco use among youth*

The Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS) is a school-based survey of students aged 13–15 years that uses a two-stage sampling design. In a first stage, schools are selected based on the probability proportional to the enrolment of students in schools. In a second stage, classes are selected randomly. It uses standard questionnaire, field methodology and analysis. The Survey has core questions that spans seven thematic areas pertinent to tobacco. In addition, countries can include country-specific questions that allow assessment of tobacco unique to the country [smokeless tobacco use may include betel quid with tobacco.]

In AFRO, all countries surveyed reported a prevalence of smokeless tobacco use among youth above 5%, ranging from 5.4% in Swaziland to 16.4% in Congo. Among boys, it varied from 5.2% in Seychelles to 18.3% in Congo, whereas among girls, from 4.8% in Togo to 15.8% in Namibia. Prevalence was higher among boys than girls in most countries, except in Uganda where



**Table 1.6 Highest and lowest prevalence of use of selected smokeless tobacco products in India, by State**

	Lowest	Highest
Betel quid	0.5% in Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Chandigarh and Uttrakhand	32.8% in Tripura
Dentifrice	0.4% in Tripura	28.35 in Chattishgarh
<i>Khaini</i>	0.5% in Tamil Nadu	32.6% in Jharkhand
<i>Gutka</i>	0.6% in Puducherry	17.0% in Madhya Pradesh

it was higher among girls (9.6% versus 8.6%) ([Asma et al., 2011](#)). Four countries (Botswana, Congo, Lesotho and Namibia) are particularly noteworthy: these countries reported the highest prevalence in both sexes (11.3–16.4%), the highest prevalence in boys (11.3–18.3%), the highest prevalence in girls (11.4–15.8%), and similar prevalence in boys and girls.

In AMRO, prevalence of smokeless tobacco use among youth varied from 3.5% in Panama to 9.8% in Barbados. Among boys, it varied from 3.8% in Panama to 11.5% in Barbados, whereas among girls, it varies from 2.6% in Venezuela to 8.5% in Jamaica. Most notably, smokeless tobacco use among boys was above 10% in Barbados, Dominican Republic and Grenada. Girls in most countries used less smokeless tobacco than boys, except in Jamaica (8.5% for both) and Peru (boys, 4.3%; girls, 4.8%) where boys and girls had comparable prevalence ([Asma et al., 2011](#)).

In SEARO, all countries surveyed reported a prevalence of smokeless tobacco use among youth above 5%, ranging from 4.9% in Bangladesh to 9.4% in Bhutan. Among boys, it ranged from 5.8% in Bangladesh to 14.1% in Bhutan whereas among girls, it varies from 2.7% in Myanmar to 6% in India. In all countries more boys than girls used smokeless tobacco products ([Asma et al., 2011](#)).

In EURO, prevalence of smokeless tobacco use among youth is lower than in other WHO regions, ranging from 1.1% in Montenegro to 6.9% in Estonia. While it ranged from 1.1% in Montenegro to 9.4% in Estonia among boys, it varied from 0.7% in Serbia to 4.5% in Estonia among girls. Except for Estonia (6.9%), all countries reported a prevalence among youth below 5%. Also, in all countries boys used more smokeless tobacco than girls ([Asma et al., 2011](#)).

In EMRO, prevalence of smokeless tobacco use among youth varied from 1.6% in Oman to 12.6% Djibouti. Among boys, it varied from 2% in Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to 15.2% in Djibouti, whereas among girls, it varied from 0.9% in Oman and Tunisia to 9% in Djibouti. Prevalence of smokeless tobacco use among youth was highest in Djibouti (12.6%), where it is also highest among boys and girls separately. Boys generally used more smokeless tobacco than girls, except in Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and Yemen where girl users slightly outnumbered boy users ([Asma et al., 2011](#)).

In WPRO, prevalence of smokeless tobacco use among youth varies from 2.1% in Macau to 8.7% in Cook Islands. Among boys, it varies from 2.2% in Macau to 10.5% in Cook Islands, whereas among girls, it varies from 2.1% in Macau to 7.3% in Cook Islands. Prevalence of smokeless tobacco use among youth in Cook Island and Republic of Korea is above 5% for boys and girls combined, as well as separately for boys and girls. Prevalence among boys was generally higher than among girls ([Asma et al., 2011](#)).

In summary, among the countries included in the GYTS survey 2007–2010, the prevalence of smokeless tobacco use among youth aged 13–15 years exceeds 5% in all or most countries in AFRO, AMRO and SEARO, in Djibouti, Islamic Republic of Iran, Qatar, Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen in EMRO, and in the Cook Islands and Republic of Korea in WPRO ([Asma et al., 2011](#)).

In general, prevalence among boys was higher than among girls, although in several countries prevalence was similar, or higher among girls.

In several countries, smokeless tobacco use among 13 to 15 year-old men is higher than that among adult men (aged 15 years or more). These include Albania, Argentina, Brazil, the Dominican Republic, Guyana, Lesotho, Mexico, Namibia, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia and Uganda. Similarly, in Albania, Argentina, Barbados, Brazil, Dominican Republic, Guyana, Kyrgyzstan, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, Swaziland, Uganda and Yemen, smokeless tobacco use among 13–15 year women is higher than that in adult women.

## 2. Cancer in Humans

### 2.1 Oral use

#### 2.1.1 Cancers of the oral cavity and pharynx

##### (a) Overview of studies

Studies of smokeless tobacco and oral and pharyngeal cancer have been conducted in North and South America, Europe, Asia, and Africa. All of the studies reported here examined oral cancer risks associated with use of unsmoked tobacco that was not part of a betel quid. Evidence regarding betel quid is presented in the *Monograph* on Betel Quid in this volume. This section focuses on the predominant smokeless tobacco products and behaviours in the countries in which the studies were conducted, for example on chewing tobacco and snuff in North America, snus in northern Europe, *shammah* in Saudi Arabia and Yemen, *toombak* in Sudan, and a variety of types in South Asia (see [Table 1.1](#) for their mode of use, ingredients and region of use). The studies typically examine cancers arising in intra-oral sites, which are predominantly squamous cell in origin ([Canto & Devesa, 2002](#)), but some include other sites as well, such as the

oropharynx, hypopharynx, or larynx. Studies involving smokeless tobacco and nasopharyngeal cancer are discussed in another chapter.

The previous *Monograph* ([IARC, 2007a](#)) concluded that there was *sufficient evidence* in humans that smokeless tobacco causes cancer of the oral cavity. Studies published since include updates on mortality and incidence for one of the cohorts reviewed previously ([Accortt et al., 2002, 2005](#)), two new cohort studies ([Luo et al., 2007](#); [Roosaar et al., 2008](#)); case-control studies from Sweden ([Rosenquist, 2005](#); [Rosenquist et al., 2005](#)) and India ([Sapkota et al., 2007](#)); and three meta-analyses ([Weitkunat et al., 2007](#); [Boffetta et al., 2008](#); [Lee & Hamling, 2009](#)).

Because tobacco smoking is a risk factor for oral and pharyngeal cancers ([IARC, 2004](#)), and tobacco smoking is often positively correlated with smokeless tobacco use ([Tomar, 2002](#)), addressing confounding by smoking is important in the examination of causality related to smokeless tobacco. Heavy alcohol use is another important risk factor and can potentially confound the relationship between tobacco use and risk of oral and pharyngeal cancer ([IARC, 2010, 2012](#)).

While analysis restricted to non-smokers and non-alcohol drinkers eliminates the possibility of confounding due to smoking and alcohol drinking, the sample sizes can be small in study populations in regions where these behaviours are common. Adjusting statistically for smoking and alcohol can alternatively be used to address confounding by these factors in populations where these behaviours are common and can provide unbiased estimates that may be more stable if there is no residual confounding within smoking/drinking categories used in the adjustment. There is *sufficient evidence* that human papillomavirus (HPV) 16 causes oral cancer in humans ([IARC, 2007b](#)). Studies have shown that the prevalence of HPV DNA is negatively correlated with tobacco smoking and alcoholic beverage consumption ([Gillison et al., 2000](#)), suggesting that positive confounding by HPV is

not likely to account for a spurious association between smokeless tobacco and oral cancer.

The specific name of the smokeless tobacco product will be used whenever available. In the USA, where moist snuff and chewing tobacco are both common, the term “smokeless tobacco” refers to use of either. Most publications provide data on “ever” versus “never” use of these products, usually defined as using the product or not for some minimal length of time such as a year. Due to the large body of evidence, this *Monograph* will focus on studies published since [IARC \(2007a\)](#).

#### (i) Cohort studies

Ever lifetime use or ever daily use of smokeless tobacco and risk of oral and pharyngeal cancers was examined in six cohort studies conducted in the USA ([Zahm et al., 1992](#); [Accortt et al., 2002, 2005](#); [Henley et al., 2005](#)), Sweden ([Luo et al., 2007](#); [Roosaar et al., 2008](#)), and Norway ([Boffetta et al., 2005](#)). Mortality data were analysed in four studies ([Zahm et al., 1992](#); [Accortt et al., 2002](#); [Henley et al., 2005](#); [Roosaar et al., 2008](#)), four ([Accortt et al., 2005](#); [Boffetta et al., 2005](#); [Luo et al., 2007](#); [Roosaar et al., 2008](#)) analysed cancer incidence. None of the studies excluded persons diagnosed in the first 1 or 2 years of follow-up nor did they collect information on changes in behaviours, such as smokeless tobacco or smoking cessation or initiation, after the baseline (Table 2.1 available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-03-Table2.1.pdf>).

Ever use of smokeless tobacco was associated with a statistically significant threefold increased risk of death from oral cancer and an 8.7 fold increased risk of death from pharyngeal cancer in one study from the USA ([Zahm et al., 1992](#)). Risks were greater among those with more frequent use, but adjustment was not performed for tobacco smoking and therefore this study will not be considered further in this section.

Ever use of smokeless tobacco was not associated with risk for cancer in four cohorts ([Accortt et al., 2005](#); [Boffetta et al., 2005](#); [Henley et al., 2005](#); [Luo et al., 2007](#)). In one cohort the age-adjusted standardized mortality ratio for oral cancer associated with ever smokeless tobacco use was not elevated ([Accortt et al., 2002](#)) and the age-adjusted standardized incidence ratio for smokeless tobacco use and oral cancer was statistically lower than expected ([Accortt et al., 2005](#)). The expected number of oral cancer deaths among ever smokeless tobacco users in this cohort was zero, suggesting limited statistical power to detect elevated risks.

In the Cancer Prevention Study I and II cohorts ([Henley et al., 2005](#); CPS-I and CPS-II, respectively), the hazard ratio (HR) for death from oral and pharyngeal cancer in CPS-I for current use of smokeless tobacco versus never use among men who never used any other form of tobacco was 2.0 (95%CI: 0.5–7.7), based on four deaths adjusting for alcohol consumption, fruit/vegetable intake and other factors. The corresponding HR in CPS-II was 0.9 (95%CI: 0.1–6.7), based on one death adjusting for similar factors as CPS-I.

In the Norwegian cohort ([Boffetta et al., 2005](#)), the HR for ever use of smokeless tobacco was 1.1 (95%CI: 0.5–2.4), for oral, pharynx or salivary gland cancer after adjusting for age and smoking. Among non-smokers in a cohort of 280 000 Swedish male construction workers, the relative risk of developing oral cancer was 0.8 (95%CI: 0.4–1.7), adjusting for attained age and body mass index (BMI) ([Luo et al., 2007](#)).

One cohort study in Sweden involved 9 860 men who participated in an oral examination ([Roosaar et al., 2008](#)). An elevated relative risk (RR) of 3.1 (95%CI: 1.5–6.6) was found for ever daily use of snus compared to never daily use of snus controlling for calendar period, area of residence, alcohol consumption, smoking, and an interaction variable for age and smoking. Among

the never-smokers in the cohort, the relative risk for ever daily use of snus was 2.3 (95%CI: 0.7–8.3).

All cohort studies had at least 12 years of follow-up. No increased risk of oral cancer was observed for the three cohorts with 12–26 years of follow-up ([Accortt et al., 2002, 2005](#); [Henley et al., 2005](#); [Luo et al., 2007](#)). One study with 35 years follow-up found no association of smokeless tobacco and oral cancer risk ([Boffetta et al., 2005](#)) and another study with 27–29 years follow-up had significant positive findings among smokers only ([Roosaar et al., 2008](#)).

### (ii) Case-control studies

Many case-control studies examined smokeless tobacco and oral and pharyngeal cancer ([Broders, 1920](#); [Moore et al., 1953](#); [Wynder & Bross, 1957](#); [Wynder et al., 1957a, b](#); [Peacock et al., 1960](#); [Chandra, 1962](#); [Vogler et al., 1962](#); [Vincent & Marchetta, 1963](#); [Martinez, 1969](#); [Keller, 1970](#); [Browne et al., 1977](#); [Jafarey et al., 1977](#); [Williams & Horm, 1977](#); [Wynder & Stellman, 1977](#); [Westbrook, 1980](#); [Winn et al., 1981a](#); [Wynder et al., 1983](#); [Stockwell & Lyman, 1986](#); [Young et al., 1986](#); [Blot et al., 1988](#); [Spitz et al., 1988](#); [Franco et al., 1989](#); [Goud et al., 1990](#); [Blomqvist et al., 1991](#); [Maden et al., 1992](#); [Marshall et al., 1992](#); [Mashberg et al., 1993](#); [Spitz et al., 1993](#); [Kabat et al., 1994](#); [Bundgaard et al., 1995](#); [Idris et al., 1995a](#); [Muscat et al., 1996](#); [Lewin et al., 1998](#); [Muscat & Wynder, 1998](#); [Schildt et al., 1998](#); [Schwartz et al., 1998](#); [Wasnik et al., 1998](#); [Chelleng et al., 2000](#); [Merchant et al., 2000](#); [Rosenquist et al., 2005](#); [Rosenquist, 2005](#); [Sapkota et al., 2007](#)). Two studies were of cancer of the salivary gland ([Keller, 1969](#); [Muscat & Wynder, 1998](#)), one reported on hypopharyngeal cancer ([Sapkota et al., 2007](#)), and one on nasopharyngeal cancer ([Chelleng et al., 2000](#)). The same study was reported on twice in two instances ([Wynder & Bross, 1957](#); [Wynder et al., 1957a](#); [Rosenquist, 2005](#); [Rosenquist et al., 2005](#)). Additionally, one cross-sectional study was conducted, but the comparability of the two surveys analysed to

yield risk estimates was uncertain ([Sterling et al., 1992](#)).

Nearly half the studies addressed potential confounding by tobacco smoking. In three ([Broders, 1920](#); [Stockwell & Lyman, 1986](#); [Keller, 1970](#)), smokeless tobacco information was probably obtained from medical records and, if ascertainment of smokeless tobacco use was more likely from cases than from controls, measurement error might account for the findings and these studies will not be considered further. The remaining 15 studies were conducted in the USA ([Vogler et al., 1962](#); [Martinez, 1969](#); [Williams & Horm, 1977](#); [Winn et al., 1981a](#); [Blot et al., 1988](#); [Mashberg et al., 1993](#); [Kabat et al., 1994](#)), Sweden ([Lewin et al., 1998](#); [Schildt et al., 1998](#); [Rosenquist, 2005](#); [Rosenquist et al., 2005](#)), India ([Chandra, 1962](#); [Wasnik et al., 1998](#); [Sapkota et al., 2007](#)), Pakistan ([Merchant et al., 2000](#)), and Sudan ([Idris et al., 1995a](#)) (Table 2.2 available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-03-Table2.2.pdf>).

Five studies were population-based ([Williams & Horm, 1977](#); [Blot et al., 1988](#); [Lewin et al., 1998](#); [Schildt et al., 1998](#); [Rosenquist et al., 2005](#)); positive findings were observed in the majority of them ([Williams & Horm, 1977](#); [Blot et al., 1988](#); [Lewin et al., 1998](#)) and in all of the hospital-based studies except one ([Mashberg et al., 1993](#)). One study ([Winn et al., 1981a](#)) also included death certificate cases and controls.

Several case-control studies of oral cancer addressed potential confounding by tobacco smoking either by statistically controlling for tobacco smoking or by restricting to non-smokers. Odds ratios (OR) for ever versus never use of smokeless tobacco overall, or for at least one of the major cancer subtypes, was statistically significantly elevated in eight studies, with odds ratios for oral cavity cancer ranging from 3.9 to 34.5 ([Vogler et al., 1962](#); [Martinez, 1969](#); [Williams & Horm, 1977](#); [Winn et al., 1981a](#); [Blot et al., 1988](#); [Kabat et al., 1994](#); [Idris et al., 1995a](#); [Wasnik et al., 1998](#); [Merchant et al., 2000](#)) and



in one study of hypopharyngeal cancer in India ([Sapkota et al., 2007](#)). In case-control studies conducted in Sweden, there was no association with use of smokeless tobacco in 2 studies ([Schildt et al., 1998](#); [Rosenquist, 2005](#)) or in another study ([Lewin et al., 1998](#)) that controlled for smoking and alcohol intake. However, when Lewin *et al.*, 1998 restricted the analysis to non-smokers the odds ratio for head and neck cancer associated with ever use of smokeless tobacco was 4.7 (95%CI: 1.6–13.8). [[Rosenquist \(2005\)](#) was based on a relatively small sample size of 132 cases and 320 controls.]

In one case-control study conducted in the USA ([Vogler et al., 1962](#)) and another of *toombak* users in Sudan ([Idris et al., 1995a](#)), neither statistical adjustment for tobacco smoking nor restriction to non-smokers was done. However, confounding by smoking was not likely to have a major effect on the risk estimates from these studies. The proportions of smokers in the case and control groups were low in the rural women in the study of [Vogler et al. \(1962\)](#) among whom positive findings were found. In the study in Sudan less than 10–12% of the two case groups and in a hospital-based control groups smoked; in the population-based control group 21% were smokers, but most had smoked for less than one year ([Idris et al., 1995a](#)).

In a meta-analysis [Boffetta et al. \(2008\)](#) included studies published through 2007 that provided information about non-smokers and studies that adjusted for tobacco smoking. The summary estimate for the 11 studies of oral cancer (6 of them also including pharyngeal cancer) was 1.8 (95%CI: 1.1–2.9) overall. For the USA, it was 2.6 (95%CI: 1.3–5.2) and for northern European countries, 1.0 (95%CI: 0.7–1.3) (Table 2.3 available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-03-Table2.3.pdf>).

Another meta-analysis included 40 studies published through May 2008 (Table 2.4 available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-03-Table2.4.pdf>) but excluded

studies in Asian or African populations ([Lee & Hamling, 2009](#)). In addition to the studies in the meta-analysis by [Boffetta et al. \(2008\)](#), 15 other studies were included: ([Moore et al., 1953](#); [Wynder & Bross, 1957](#); [Wynder et al., 1957, 1983](#); [Peacock et al., 1960](#); [Vincent & Marchetta, 1963](#); [Martinez, 1969](#); [Keller, 1970](#); [Browne et al., 1977](#); [Wynder & Stellman, 1977](#); [Young et al., 1986](#); [Spitz et al., 1988](#); [Franco et al., 1989](#); [Blomqvist et al., 1991](#); [Maden et al., 1992](#); [Marshall et al., 1992](#); [Sterling et al., 1992](#); [Zahm et al., 1992](#); [Spitz et al., 1993](#); [Bundgaard et al., 1995](#); [Muscat et al., 1996](#); [Schwartz et al., 1998](#)) and one unpublished study by Perry and colleagues in 1993. Among never-smokers the odds ratio was 1.72 (95%CI: 1.01–2.94) based on 9 studies; further adjustment for alcohol in the three studies where this was possible yielded an odds ratio among never-smokers of 1.87 (95%CI: 0.82–4.27). The estimate for never-smokers among the studies conducted in the USA was 3.33 (95%CI: 1.76–6.32), and decreased with additional adjustment for alcohol drinking (1.58; 95%CI: 0.52–4.81), based on two studies among never-smokers. Corresponding estimates for snuff use in never-smokers in Scandinavia were 1.01 (95%CI: 0.71–1.45; 4 studies) and 2.30 (95%CI: 0.67–7.92; 1 study) adjusted for alcohol drinking. For studies published since 1990, the corresponding estimates were 1.24 (95%CI: 0.80–1.90; 7 studies) in never-smokers and 1.87 (95%CI: 0.82–4.27; 3 studies) adjusted for alcohol drinking.

[Lee & Hamling \(2009\)](#) updated an earlier meta-analysis ([Weitkunat et al., 2007](#)) of 32 studies through 2005, excluding studies conducted in Asian populations. [Weitkunat et al. \(2007\)](#) did not include three studies ([Rosenquist et al., 2005](#); [Luo et al., 2007](#); [Roosaar et al., 2008](#)), but provided sex- and tobacco type- specific estimates not reported by [Lee & Hamling \(2009\)](#). For smokeless tobacco, the overall smoking-adjusted relative risk was 1.35 (95%CI: 1.04–1.76), and for chewing tobacco and snuff, the estimates were 1.42 (95%CI: 0.99–2.03; 6 studies) and

1.28 (95%CI: 0.76–2.14; 7 studies). For men the smoking-adjusted estimate was 1.15 (95%CI: 0.97–1.37) and for women 2.51 (95%CI: 1.73–3.64). For case-control studies with hospital-based controls, the estimates were 1.41 (95%CI: 1.18–1.68) and for studies with population-based controls 0.99 (95%CI: 0.69–1.42). Smoking-adjusted relative risks for smokeless tobacco were elevated only for studies conducted before 1980: 2.02 (95%CI: 1.28–3.20) for earlier than 1969, 2.67 (95%CI: 1.83–3.90) for 1970–1979, compared with 0.97 (95%CI: 0.71–1.31) for 1980–1989, and 1.10 (95%CI: 0.88–1.37) for 1990 or later.

#### (b) Dose-response evidence

In this and subsequent sections, the relative risks and odds ratios are either among non-smokers or are adjusted for tobacco smoking. Dose-response relationships were observed in several studies.

##### (i) Duration and intensity

[Williams & Horm \(1977\)](#) found that the odds ratio for oral cavity cancers in men associated with heavy use of smokeless tobacco was higher than for moderate use. [Lewin et al. \(1998\)](#) also reported relative risks for head and neck cancer that increased with increasing intensity of oral snuff use. Of the case-control studies that examined duration, higher risks of oral cancer with greater numbers of years of snuff use were noted for cancers of the gum/buccal mucosa, but not for other cancers of the mouth/pharynx category ([Winn et al., 1981a](#)). No increase with years of snus use was observed in two Swedish case-control studies ([Lewin et al., 1998](#); [Rosenquist et al., 2005](#)). In a study in Sudan ([Idris et al., 1995a](#)), the odds ratio for use of *toombak* for more than 11 years was greater than that for fewer years of use.

##### (ii) Cessation

In two cohort ([Boffetta et al., 2005](#); [Luo et al., 2007](#)) and three case-control studies ([Lewin et al., 1998](#); [Schildt et al., 1998](#); [Rosenquist et al.,](#)

[2005](#)), risks were not significantly elevated in either current or former smokeless tobacco users. No studies provided information on time since stopping.

#### (c) Comparison of types of smokeless tobacco by geographical location

##### (i) Northern Europe

Four studies from this area found no overall association between use of snus and oral cancer ([Lewin et al., 1998](#); [Schildt et al., 1998](#); [Boffetta et al., 2005](#); [Rosenquist, 2005](#)). One case-control study ([Rosenquist, 2005](#)) examined users of fermented and not fermented snuff and observed no risk for either type. In Sweden before 1983, snuff was fermented as part of the manufacturing process, and this process is conducive to formation of tobacco-specific *N*-nitrosamines. In one cohort study ([Roosaar et al., 2008](#)) the relative risk for ever daily use of snus was 3.1 (95%CI: 1.5–6.6, adjusted for smoking, calendar period, area of residence, alcohol consumption and a variable to account for the interaction between age and smoking) and 2.3 (95%CI: 0.7–8.3) among non-smokers with adjustment for calendar period, area of residence and alcohol consumption. In a case-control study, among non-smokers, the odds ratio for cancers of the oral cavity, pharynx and oesophagus combined was 4.7 (95%CI: 1.6–13.8) ([Lewin et al., 1998](#)).

##### (ii) USA

In the USA chewing tobacco and moist snuff are the predominant forms of smokeless tobacco. In five case-control studies of oral cancer, the odds ratio for ever use of smokeless tobacco were statistically significantly elevated overall for use of one or other type, ranging from 4.2 to 34.5 ([Martinez, 1969](#); [Williams & Horm, 1977](#); [Williams et al., 1977](#); [Winn et al., 1981a](#); [Blot et al., 1988](#); [Kabat et al., 1994](#)). No association with use of either of these products was observed in 2 cohort studies ([Accortt et al., 2002](#); [2005](#);

[Henley et al., 2005](#)) and one case-control study ([Mashberg et al., 1993](#)).

The odds ratio for chewing tobacco was not statistically significantly elevated in two studies ([Mashberg et al., 1993](#); [Kabat et al., 1994](#)); but was in a third ([Martinez, 1969](#)). For snuff, one study found no association ([Mashberg et al., 1993](#)) and in three others statistically significant elevated risks were observed, ranging from 4.2 to 34.5 ([Winn et al., 1981a](#); [Blot et al., 1988](#); [Kabat et al., 1994](#)). In one case-control study in the southern USA positive associations were observed among non-smoking women who were snuff dippers, but a significant association was observed for white, but not black women; dry snuff was the predominant form of snuff used by women in that area ([Winn et al., 1981a](#)). Elevated odds ratios persisted with control for poor dentition ([Winn et al., 1981b](#)), use of mouthwashes ([Blot et al., 1983](#)), fruits and vegetables ([Winn et al., 1984](#)), type of respondent (self versus proxy), and alcohol consumption ([Winn, 1986](#)).

### (iii) Africa, Middle East, and Asia

In Sudan the majority of a consecutively accrued series of oral cancer cases used *saffa*, an oral snuff, a moistened, powdered tobacco treated with sodium sesquicarbonate ([Elbeshir et al., 1989](#)). Also, in Sudan *toombak* use was higher in oral cancer cases with squamous cell-carcinomas in sites with direct contact with the quid (e.g. floor of mouth) than cases with less or no contact (e.g. palate) ([Idris et al., 1995b](#)). The odds ratio for *toombak* use was 7.3 (4.3–12.4) comparing hospital-based cases with oral cancers in direct contact with the quid versus hospital controls, and 1.4 (0.8–2.5) for cases with oral cancers not usually in direct contact with the quid ([Idris et al., 1995a](#)), adjusting for age, sex, tribe and residence. Ten to twelve percent of the cases and hospital controls smoked. Twenty-one percent of population controls smoked, although most had smoked for less than one year.

Case series from Saudi Arabia have noted a high frequency of use of *shammah* or *al-shammah* in series of oral, pharyngeal, and laryngeal cancer cases ([Amer et al., 1985](#); [Ibrahim et al., 1986](#); [al-Idrissi, 1990](#); [Allard et al., 1999](#)).

In Pakistan, ever using *naswar* was associated with an odds ratio of 9.5 (95%CI: 1.7–52.5; adjusted for cigarette smoking and alcohol consumption) ([Merchant et al., 2000](#)). Reports based on small series of users in which potential confounding by tobacco smoking could not be ruled out also noted higher frequencies of *naswar* use in oral cancer cases than controls or oral cancers among *naswar* users ([Aleksandrova, 1970](#); [Nugmanov & Baimakanov, 1970](#)).

In India, a case-control study of buccal mucosa cancer observed an odds ratio of [2.7] for men and [2.5] for women associated with tobacco chewing among non-smokers ([Chandra, 1962](#)). In a cross-sectional survey, the period prevalence of oral and oropharyngeal cancer among persons who used *pattiwala*, sun-cured tobacco leaf only, was 1.17 per 100 persons compared to 0.36 among non-chewers of tobacco ([Wahi, 1968](#)) [tobacco smoking was not accounted for]. A case-control study of oropharyngeal cancer, using a smokeless tobacco product for teeth cleaning was associated with an odds ratio of 5.2 (95%CI: 2.5–11.8), adjusted for smoking ([Wasnik et al., 1998](#)). In another case-control study in India, snuffing tobacco nasally or orally, generally using *naswar*, was associated with elevated odds ratios for hypopharyngeal cancer in never-smokers and in analyses adjusted for tobacco smoking and alcohol consumption ([Sapkota et al., 2007](#)). [The Working Group noted that in the [Sapkota et al. \(2007\)](#) study, snuff use was nasal as well as oral so the role of oral use could not be separately determined.] In the same study, odds ratios for hypopharyngeal cancer among never-smokers were significantly elevated for *zarda* and non-significantly elevated for *khaini*, after adjusting for centre, age, sex, socioeconomic status, alcohol consumption and tobacco snuffing.



*(d) Interactions*

In one study in the USA that provided odds ratios for smokers only, smokeless tobacco users only, and smokers who also used smokeless tobacco, each compared to non-users of either, there was no evidence of an interaction between smokeless tobacco use and smoking ([Winn et al., 1981a](#)), nor was there any evidence of an interaction between smokeless tobacco use and alcohol consumption in a similar analysis of that study population ([Winn, 1986](#)).

*2.1.2 Precancerous lesions of the oral cavity**(a) Overview of studies*

Studies on the natural history of oral cancer suggest that several types of potentially malignant lesions and conditions precede the development of cancer of the oral cavity. Oral precancerous lesions of relevance are leukoplakia and erythroplakia. The term leukoplakia will be used below to describe white lesions and erythroplakia to describe red lesions. Several classification systems for the lesions have been used ([Axell et al., 1976](#); [Pindborg, 1980](#), [Greer & Poulson, 1983](#); [Pindborg et al., 1996](#)), all involving visual inspection of the oral cavity and a diagnosis based on clinical appearance of the lesions to identify the causes of the white and red oral lesions. Smokeless tobacco use has previously been identified as a risk factor for oral pre-malignant lesions ([IARC, 2007a](#)). Histological and clinical changes occur in the mucosa of snuff users in as few as 2–7 days after initiation of use ([Payne et al., 1998](#)). Furthermore, the location of the lesion in the mouth has been shown to correspond to where the smokeless tobacco is typically placed ([Salem et al., 1984](#); [Zaridze et al., 1986](#); [Ernster et al., 1990](#); [Tomar et al., 1997](#); [Martin et al., 1999](#); [Ayo-Yusuf et al., 2000](#)).

Since [IARC \(2007a\)](#) one cross-sectional study has been published in the USA ([Fisher et al., 2005](#)), one from Sweden ([Roosaar et al., 2008](#)),

and one from Yemen ([Scheifele et al., 2007](#)). Cross-sectional studies and case series from many parts of the world have reported that leukoplakia occurs more commonly among smokeless tobacco users and that persons with lesions are more frequently smokeless tobacco users. Many cross-sectional studies were conducted in the USA ([Greer & Poulson, 1983](#); [Poulson et al., 1984](#); [Offenbacher & Weathers, 1985](#); [Wolfe & Carlos, 1987](#); [Creath et al., 1988](#); [Cummings et al., 1989](#); [Stewart et al., 1989](#); [Ernster et al., 1990](#); [Grady et al., 1990](#); [Creath et al., 1991](#); [Daniels et al., 1992](#); [Sinusas et al., 1992](#); [Grasser & Childers, 1997](#); [Tomar et al., 1997](#); [Martin et al., 1999](#); [Lee et al., 2000](#); [Shulman et al., 2004](#); [Fisher et al., 2005](#); [Sinusas & Coroso, 2006](#)). The types of smokeless tobacco implicated are snus in Sweden ([Salonen et al., 1990](#); [Rolandsson et al., 2005](#)), Finland ([Jungell & Malmström, 1985](#)), and Denmark ([Roed-Petersen et al., 1972](#); [Roed-Petersen & Pindborg, 1973](#); [Rolandsson et al., 2005](#)), chewing tobacco in the United Kingdom ([Tyldesley, 1971](#)) and India ([Jacob et al., 2004](#)), *nass* (*naswar*) in Uzbekistan ([Zaridze et al., 1985, 1986](#); [Evstifeeva & Zaridze, 1992](#)), *toombak* in Sudan ([Idris et al., 1996](#); [Ahmed et al., 2003](#); [Ahmed & Mahgoob, 2007](#)), snuff (finely ground fermented tobacco leaf with the wet ash of an *Amaranthus* species plant) in South Africa ([Ayo-Yusuf et al., 2000](#)), *shammah* in Yemen ([Scheifele et al., 2007](#)) and Saudi Arabia ([Salem et al., 1984](#); [Mani, 1985](#)).

Table 2.5 (available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-03-Table2.5.pdf>) includes cross-sectional and case-control studies of smokeless tobacco and leukoplakia, listed by country. Eight reports from the USA adjusted for tobacco smoking, either through statistical adjustment or restriction to non-smokers, one in schoolchildren ([Tomar et al., 1997](#)) and the others in adults ([Shulman et al., 2004](#); [Ernster et al., 1990](#); [Grady et al., 1990](#); [Daniels et al., 1992](#); [Greene et al., 1992](#); [Martin et al., 1999](#); [Fisher et al., 2005](#)). The prevalence rate ratio or odds ratio for oral leukoplakia in



current smokeless tobacco users exceeded those of non-users for smokeless tobacco overall in four studies from the USA ([Ernster et al., 1990](#); [Tomar et al., 1997](#); [Martin et al., 1999](#); [Fisher et al., 2005](#)) for snuff in four studies ([Ernster et al., 1990](#); [Tomar et al., 1997](#); [Martin et al., 1999](#); [Fisher et al., 2005](#)) and for chewing tobacco in two ([Ernster et al., 1990](#); [Tomar et al., 1997](#)) but not in a third ([Fisher et al., 2005](#)).

In Uzbekistan *nass* (*naswar*) use was positively associated with oral leukoplakia in non-smokers ([Zaridze et al., 1986](#)) and after adjusting for smoking, alcoholic beverage consumption, and age ([Evstifeeva & Zaridze, 1992](#)). In India, oral precancerous lesions (oral leukoplakia, submucous fibrosis, erythroplakia, and multiple lesions) were associated with tobacco chewing after adjusting for age, sex, BMI, pack-years of smoking, and years of drinking alcohol ([Thomas et al., 2003](#); [Jacob et al., 2004](#)).

## (b) Dose-response evidence

### (i) Duration and intensity

Strong dose-response relationships have been observed in studies in the USA with intensity and duration of use of smokeless tobacco, snuff or chewing tobacco. The prevalence odds ratio for mucosal lesions increased with increasing intensity (amounts used per day or week) and duration (months, years, minutes or hours per day with tobacco in the mouth; shorter time since last used) of use of smokeless tobacco (chewing tobacco and snuff) ([Ernster et al., 1990](#); [Tomar et al., 1997](#); [Martin et al., 1999](#); [Fisher et al., 2005](#)). Baseball players who used smokeless tobacco only during the playing season had a lower prevalence rate of oral lesions than year-long users, but higher than non-users ([Greene et al., 1992](#)).

In Uzbekistan there was a trend of greater odds ratios for pre-leukoplakia and leukoplakia with the number of times *nass* was used per day, earlier age at initiation of the habit, years used, and lifetime intake ([Evstifeeva & Zaridze, 1992](#)).

In Yemen, there was a dose-response relationship with number of minutes *shammah* was kept in the mouth and the risk was reduced if the mouth was rinsed after using the product ([Scheifele et al., 2007](#)).

### (ii) Cessation

The prevalence or prevalence odds ratio for oral lesions were higher in current than in former users in studies in the USA ([Ernster et al., 1990](#); [Tomar et al., 1997](#); [Shulman et al., 2004](#); [Fisher et al., 2005](#)). Former users generally had higher prevalence or prevalence odds ratio (although not always statistically significantly elevated) than never users ([Ernster et al., 1990](#); [Tomar et al., 1997](#); [Fisher et al., 2005](#)). In Uzbekistan, both former (OR, 3.00; 95%CI: 1.08–8.32) and current users (OR, 3.86; 95%CI: 2.60–5.72) had statistically significantly elevated odds ratios associated with *nass* use ([Evstifeeva & Zaridze, 1992](#)).

### (c) Severity of lesions

The percentage of more severe leukoplakia lesions (degree 3 and 4) was higher with increasing amount of use, longer duration of use, shorter time since last use of snuff, and exposure time in the mouth in studies in the USA ([Ernster et al., 1990](#); [Grady et al., 1990](#); [Daniels et al., 1992](#); [Greene et al., 1992](#); [Tomar et al., 1997](#); [Martin et al., 1999](#)). Basal-cell hyperplasia was observed in 4% of 132 lesion biopsies from snuff users, while no hyperplasia was found in the 6 biopsies from chewing tobacco users ([Daniels et al., 1992](#)). Severe epithelial atypia was observed in *toombak* users (38%) in a case series in Sudan ([Ahmed et al., 2003](#)). Also in Sudan greater duration of *toombak* use was associated with greater severity of the lesions ([Idris et al., 1996](#)). In a South African study, lesions were more severe among those with more minutes per day of use and the users of the commercial brand compared to home-made snuff ([Ayo-Yusuf et al., 2000](#)).

*(d) Types*

The prevalence of lesions was higher among snuff users compared with tobacco chewers in several studies ([Ernster et al., 1990](#); [Greene et al., 1992](#); [Tomar et al., 1997](#); [Martin et al., 1999](#)). Among snuff users, the prevalence of lesions and the relative risk varied depending on the brand used ([Grady et al., 1990](#); [Greene et al., 1992](#); [Martin et al., 1999](#)). In Yemen ([Scheifele et al., 2007](#)) the prevalence odds ratio was higher for using black *shammah* compared to white *shammah*. Greater frequency of more severe lesions has been found in users of loose snus compared to men using portion-bag snus ([Andersson & Axéll, 1989](#); [Andersson et al., 1994](#); [Rolandsson et al., 2005](#)).

*(e) Reversal or progression of lesions*

Table 2.6 (available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-03-Table2.6.pdf>) provides information from studies that examined reversal or progression of lesions. In men with leukoplakia that were re-examined 1–21 days after the first examination, 15% of the lesions resolved and 18% improved by one degree ([Grady et al., 1991](#)). Smaller lesions were most likely to have resolved in men who decreased or stopped smokeless tobacco use, among users of chewing tobacco compared with those of snuff, among light users, and among seasonal users only. Disappearance or regression of lesions was not associated with duration of smokeless tobacco use or the number of days between the initial examination and follow-up. In a study of military recruits, 97% of the oral lesions observed at the initial examination had completely resolved six weeks after they ceased using tobacco ([Martin et al., 1999](#)). In a study in Denmark, there was a lower percentage of snuff users whose lesions transformed to dysplasia or malignancy compared to patients with leukoplakia who did not use snuff ([Roed-Petersen & Pindborg, 1973](#)).

Men in Sweden with snus-induced lesions followed over 27–29 years did not have a higher risk of oral cancer (not smoking adjusted) compared to the entire Swedish population ([Roosaar et al., 2006](#)). A subset of men had a repeat oral examination 19–22 years after the baseline. Among those who stopped snus entirely or used it less than once per day, 6.1% had a lesion at the follow-up exam. Lesions were still present with the same or lesser severity in 91% of the men who continued use of loose snuff or changed to portion-bag snuff and 8.7% had a worse lesion. Of those who used snus for more hours per day at the follow-up than at baseline, 12.1% had a worse lesion. In an earlier study, after 3–6 months, snus users with oral lesions who used portion-bag snus were more likely to have less severe lesions and users who stopped using snus or who changed to portion bags and changed the placement of the snus in the mouth had no lesions at the original site ([Larsson et al., 1991](#)). Snus users who changed to snus with a lower pH and lower nicotine concentrations had less severe lesions after 24 weeks ([Andersson & Warfvinge, 2003](#)).

In a 10 year follow up study in India, [Gupta et al. \(1980\)](#) reported significantly higher malignant transformation in a group of smokeless tobacco users with precancer.

*2.1.3 Cancer of the oesophagus**(a) Overview of studies*

Studies of smokeless tobacco and oesophageal cancer have been conducted in North America, Europe and Asia. All of the studies reported here examined oesophageal cancer risks associated with use of unsmoked tobacco that was not part of a betel quid. Evidence regarding betel quid is presented in the *Monograph on Betel Quid* in this volume. These studies generally focused on the predominant smokeless tobacco products and behaviours in the countries in which the studies were conducted.

Two studies ([Zendehdel et al., 2008](#); [Nasrollahzadeh et al., 2008](#)) have been published since the previous *Monograph* ([IARC, 2007a](#)).

Major risk factors for oesophageal cancers are tobacco smoking, betel quid chewing, heavy alcohol consumption (only for squamous cell carcinomas of the oesophagus) ([IARC, 2004](#), [IARC, 2010](#)) and BMI (for adenocarcinoma of the oesophagus) ([Kubo & Corley, 2006](#)), making these factors potential confounders in studies of smokeless tobacco. [The Working Group notes that betel quid chewing and smokeless tobacco use are nearly always mutually exclusive in certain geographic regions.]

In two cohort studies ([Boffetta et al., 2005](#); [Zendehdel et al., 2008](#)) smokeless tobacco use and oesophageal cancer has been examined (Table 2.7 available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-03-Table2.7.pdf>); both addressed potential confounding by smoking and included incident cases occurring in the first few years of follow-up.

One of the cohort studies was conducted in Norway and study participants were followed for 35 years for cancer incidence ([Boffetta et al., 2005](#)). The relative risk for oesophageal cancer was 1.4 (95%CI: 0.6–3.2) for ever use of snuff compared to never use, adjusted for age and smoking. In a Swedish cohort study ([Zendehdel et al., 2008](#)) the relative risk for squamous cell carcinoma of the oesophagus among non-smoking men who used only snuff compared to never users of tobacco was 3.5 (95%CI: 1.6–7.6) adjusting for age and BMI.

Several case-control studies in the USA have been conducted that did not include odds ratio among non-smokers or did not adjust statistically for smoking behaviours ([Wynder et al., 1957](#); [Wynder & Bross, 1961](#); [Wynder & Stellman, 1977](#); [Pottern et al., 1981](#)). Of the seven case-control studies of smokeless tobacco and oesophageal cancer that did so (Table 2.8 available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-03-Table2.8.pdf>),

two were conducted in Sweden ([Lewin et al., 1998](#); [Lagergren et al., 2000](#)), three in the USA ([Martinez, 1969](#); [Williams & Horm, 1977](#); [Williams et al., 1977](#); [Brown et al., 1988](#)), one in India ([Phukan et al., 2001](#)) and one in the Islamic Republic of Iran ([Nasrollahzadeh et al., 2008](#)). Because the survival rate for oesophageal cancer is poor ([Crew & Neugut, 2004](#)), case-control studies may be susceptible to selection bias from not interviewing study cases who died before the time of interview or measurement error due to obtaining information from proxy interviews ([Winn, 1986](#)).

Three case-control studies from the USA (one from Puerto Rico) showed no association between use of smokeless tobacco and oesophageal cancer ([Martinez, 1969](#); [Williams & Horm, 1977](#); [Williams et al., 1977](#); [Brown et al., 1988](#)) after adjusting for smoking or restricting the analysis to non-smokers. The proportion of proxy interviews needed to ascertain smokeless tobacco use in these studies was 45% ([Williams & Horm, 1977](#); [Williams et al., 1977](#)), at least 69% ([Brown et al., 1988](#)), and 12% ([Martinez, 1969](#)).

Both of the Swedish case-control studies were population-based and adjusted the analyses for smoking and alcohol intake ([Lewin et al., 1998](#); [Lagergren et al., 2000](#)). In one of them that involved both squamous cell and adenocarcinoma, no proxy interviews were permitted ([Lagergren et al., 2000](#)). The odds ratio for users of smokeless tobacco only compared to non-users of tobacco was 1.4 (95%CI: 0.9–2.3) for squamous cell carcinoma of the oesophagus and 1.2 (95%CI: 0.7–2.0) for adenocarcinoma of the oesophagus adjusting for age, tobacco smoking, alcohol drinking and other factors. In the other Swedish study ([Lewin et al., 1998](#)) on squamous cell carcinoma, most were interviewed about a month after the case's diagnosis date. The odds ratio for ever use of snuff was 1.2 (95%CI: 0.7–2.2), adjusting for age, region, tobacco smoking and alcoholic beverages.



In a hospital-based case-control study from India an association between smokeless tobacco and oesophageal cancer was found ([Phukan et al., 2001](#)). Relative to persons who neither used smokeless tobacco nor smoked, the odds ratio for persons who used only *chadha* (a type of smokeless tobacco) but did not chew betel quid nor smoke was 3.2 (95%CI: 1.6–9.5) for men and 6.2 (95%CI: 2.4–12.1) for women, adjusting for alcohol. In a study in the Islamic Republic of Iran cases were interviewed at the time of diagnosis (there were no proxy interviews), and only histologically confirmed squamous cell carcinoma were included ([Nasrollahzadeh et al., 2008](#)); when use of different tobacco products was examined in a multivariate model, there was a significant positive association with *nass* use only compared to never users of any tobacco product, after adjustment for education, ethnicity, and total intake of fruit and vegetables.

In a meta-analysis of studies published through 2007 ([Boffetta et al., 2008](#); Table 2.9, available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-03-Table2.9.pdf>), only studies from Europe and the USA that provided information about non-smokers and studies that included smokers but adjusted for tobacco smoking were included. The overall estimate of effect for the five studies of oesophageal cancer was 1.6 (95%CI: 1.1–2.3). In a second meta-analysis [Lee & Hamling \(2009\)](#) included studies from Europe and the USA of smokeless tobacco and oesophageal cancer through May 2008, including and two studies that did not adjust for smoking ([Wynder & Bross, 1961](#); [Wynder & Stellman, 1977](#); Table 2.10, available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-03-Table2.10.pdf>). The overall relative risk among never-smokers was 1.91 (95%CI: 1.15–3.17) and the smoking-adjusted relative risk 1.13 (95%CI: 0.95–1.36). For Scandinavian studies, the summary relative risk in never-smokers was 1.92 (95%CI: 1.00–3.68; one study) and 1.10 (95%CI: 0.92–1.33) when smoking

adjusted. For studies from the USA, the relative risks restricted to never-smokers or adjusted for smoking were identical, 1.89 (95%CI: 0.84–4.25).

## (b) Dose-response evidence

### (i) Duration and intensity

In one case-control study ([Lagergren et al., 2000](#)), there were no significant increases in risk for years of use up to 25 years, adjusted for smoking, alcohol, and other factors. For more than 25 years of use, the odds ratio for snuff use controlling for smoking, alcohol intake and other factors was 2.0 (95%CI: 0.9–4.1) for squamous cell carcinoma of the oesophagus and 1.9 (95%CI: 0.9–4.0) for adenocarcinoma of the oesophagus. The odds ratio for use of 15–35 quids per week for squamous cell carcinoma was 2.1 (95%CI: 1.0–4.4) and for adenocarcinoma, 2.0 (95%CI: 1.0–4.3). Corresponding estimates for using more than 35 quids per week were 1.0 (95%CI: 0.4–2.4) and 0.8 (95%CI: 0.3–2.0), respectively. In another case-control study ([Lewin et al., 1998](#)), the odds ratio for smokeless tobacco users of more than 50 g per week was 1.9 (95%CI: 0.8–3.9) adjusting for smoking and alcohol intake among other factors. In the Islamic Republic of Iran study ([Nasrollahzadeh et al., 2008](#)), there were significant positive exposure-response relationships for frequency of use per day of *nass*, cumulative use (frequency times duration), and duration of *nass* use. However, these findings were not controlled for tobacco smoking.

### (ii) Cessation

In one case-control study of oesophageal cancer ([Lewin et al., 1998](#)), there was no association with snuff use for former or current smokeless tobacco users compared to never smokeless tobacco users.

## (c) Types

In northern Europe, the predominant form of smokeless tobacco is snus. Of the four studies from that geographic region – two cohort

(Boffetta *et al.*, 2005; Zendehdel *et al.*, 2008) and two case-control (Lewin *et al.*, 1998; Lagergren *et al.*, 2000) – all of the odds ratios were greater than 1.0, but statistically significantly elevated only in one study (Zendehdel *et al.*, 2008). The odds ratios in the three studies from the USA where snuff and chewing tobacco are used, were not statistically significantly elevated (Martinez, 1969; Williams & Horm, 1977; Brown *et al.*, 1988).

In India, among non-smokers, statistically significantly elevated odds ratios associated with chewing *chadha* were reported for both men and women adjusting for alcohol consumption (Phukan *et al.*, 2001). In a study in the Islamic Republic of Iran, *nass* users had a significantly increased risk of oesophageal cancer (Nasrollahzadeh *et al.*, 2008).

It was noted in a report on a case series in Sudan that use of tobacco in the form of *toombak* under the tongue or in the labiodental groove was common in an area where oesophageal cancer incidence rates were high (Babekir *et al.*, 1989).

#### (d) Histology

Two studies analysed squamous cell cancer and adenocarcinoma separately (Lagergren *et al.*, 2000; Zendehdel *et al.*, 2008); in the other studies (Brown *et al.*, 1988; Phukan *et al.*, 2001; Nasrollahzadeh *et al.*, 2008), most (if not all) of the cases had squamous cell carcinomas. Statistically significantly elevated odds ratios were found for ever use of smokeless tobacco and squamous cell carcinomas in one study (Zendehdel *et al.*, 2008), in another study (Lagergren *et al.*, 2000) for users of 15–35 quids per week, and in a third study of predominantly squamous cell carcinomas (Phukan *et al.*, 2001). In a fourth study from the Islamic Republic of Iran that assessed squamous cell carcinomas, *nass* use was found to have a significant positive association with oesophageal cancer (Nasrollahzadeh *et al.*, 2008).

Two studies provided odds ratios for use of smokeless tobacco and adenocarcinoma of the oesophagus; in one the odds ratio was

statistically significantly elevated for ever users (Zendehdel *et al.*, 2008) and in the other (Lagergren *et al.*, 2000) users of 15–35 quids per week had an increased risk for adenocarcinoma of the oesophagus.

#### (e) Population characteristics

In the study in India (Phukan *et al.*, 2001), significantly elevated odds ratios were observed in both men and women.

#### (f) Subsites of cancers of the upper aerodigestive tract

In some studies smokeless tobacco-associated risks were examined only for oral cancer or provided oral cavity cancer-specific findings. Of these studies, statistically significantly elevated odds ratios for ever use of smokeless tobacco were noted in seven (Chandra, 1962; Williams & Horm, 1977; Blot *et al.*, 1988; Idris *et al.*, 1995a; Merchant *et al.*, 2000) but no association in two (Schildt *et al.*, 1998; Accortt *et al.*, 2002, 2005; Luo *et al.*, 2007). Some other studies provided estimates for the oral cavity plus one or more of the pharynx, lip, salivary gland, oesophagus, and larynx. Of these four had positive findings (Kabat *et al.*, 1994; Lewin *et al.*, 1998; Wasnik *et al.*, 1998; Roosaar *et al.*, 2008) and four had relative risks below one or close to approximately equal to one (Mashberg *et al.*, 1993; Boffetta *et al.*, 2005; Henley *et al.*, 2005; Rosenquist, 2005). In studies providing information separately for the pharynx, estimates were positive for women with 20 or more years of snuff use in the USA (Winn *et al.*, 1981a); for hypopharyngeal cancer, estimates were positive in one study in India (Sapkota *et al.*, 2007) and below one in two other studies (Williams & Horm, 1977; Lewin *et al.*, 1998).

### 2.1.4 Cancer of the pancreas

Three cohort studies ([Zheng \*et al.\*, 1993](#); [Boffetta \*et al.\*, 2005](#); [Luo \*et al.\*, 2007](#)), three population-based case-control studies ([Williams & Horm 1977](#); [Farrow & Davis, 1990](#); [Alguacil & Silverman, 2004](#)) and two hospital based case-control studies ([Muscat \*et al.\*, 1997](#); [Hassan \*et al.\*, 2007](#)) in North America and in Europe investigated the association between the use of smokeless tobacco and pancreatic cancer.

#### (a) North America

##### (i) Cohort study

In the Lutheran Brotherhood Insurance Society cohort with 20 years follow-up, a relative risk of 1.7 (95%CI: 0.9–3.1, based on 16 deaths) adjusted for age, alcoholic beverages and smoking was found for male ever users of smokeless tobacco ([Zheng \*et al.\*, 1993](#)).

##### (ii) Case-control studies

No association was found with smokeless tobacco in two population-based case-control studies ([Williams & Horm 1977](#); [Farrow & Davis, 1990](#)). In a population-based case-control study that restricted analyses to lifelong non-smokers of cigarettes, a non-significantly 40% increase in risk for pancreatic cancer (95%CI: 0.5–3.6) was found in those who used smokeless tobacco regularly compared to non-users of tobacco ([Alguacil & Silverman, 2004](#)). Among tobacco chewers who were not current cigarette smokers, an elevated risk of 3.6 (CI: 1.0–12.8) was seen when compared to never-smokers and long-term quitters ( $\geq 20$  years) in one hospital-based case-control study ([Muscat \*et al.\*, 1997](#)) and no association with chewing tobacco or using snuff was noted in another hospital-based case-control study ([Hassan \*et al.\*, 2007](#)). None of the studies adjusted for BMI or alcohol, which are potentially important risk factors for pancreatic cancer (Table 2.11, available at

<http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-03-Table2.11.pdf>).

In a meta-analysis of four studies from the USA, the summary relative risk for pancreatic cancer among users of smokeless tobacco was 1.4 (95%CI: 0.7–2.7) ([Boffetta \*et al.\*, 2008](#)).

##### (iii) Duration and intensity

Only a few studies assessed risk in relation to duration and intensity of use, assessing oz per week or grams per day and duration of use. In one study ([Alguacil & Silverman, 2004](#)), the odds ratio for those who used  $> 2.5$  oz of smokeless tobacco a week compared to non-users of tobacco was 3.5 (95%CI: 1.1–10.6) and for those who used smokeless tobacco for more than 20 years was 1.5 (95%CI: 0.6–4.0), adjusted for age, sex, race, cigar smoking and study area.

#### (b) Europe

In the Norwegian Cohort Study followed up for 35 years the relative risk for pancreatic cancer for ever use of snuff (snus) was 1.67 (95%CI: 1.12–2.50; 45 cases), adjusted for smoking and age ([Boffetta \*et al.\*, 2005](#)). Among ever users of snuff, the relative risk was 0.85 (95%CI: 0.24–3.07, based on three cases) in never-smokers. In the Swedish construction worker cohort study, analyses were restricted to never smoking men at the time of entry into the study ([Luo \*et al.\*, 2007](#)). Average follow-up was 20 years and 83 pancreatic cancers were recorded. Compared to never users of any tobacco product, and after adjustment for age and BMI, the relative risk for never smoking current users of snus was 2.1 (95%CI: 1.2–3.6; 18 cases) and in never-smokers who used  $\geq 10$  g/day snus was 2.1 (95%CI: 1.1–3.8) (Table 2.12, available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-03-Table2.12.pdf>).

A meta-analysis showed a summary relative risk for pancreatic cancer among users of smokeless tobacco based on the two above cohort studies of 1.8 (95%CI: 1.3–2.5) ([Boffetta \*et al.\*, 2008](#)).

### 2.1.5 Other cancers

#### (a) Cancer of the stomach

Four cohort studies ([Kneller et al., 1991](#); [Chao et al., 2002](#); [Boffetta et al., 2005](#); [Zendehdel et al., 2008](#)) and 4 case-control studies ([Williams & Horm, 1977](#); [Hansson et al., 1994](#); [Ye et al., 1999](#); [Phukan et al., 2005](#)) investigated the association between stomach cancer and use of smokeless tobacco. [Phukan et al. \(2005\)](#) also reported exposure to *tuibur* ([Table 1.1](#)).

#### (i) Cohort studies

In the USA, non-significantly elevated risks associated with smokeless tobacco use were observed among never-smokers compared to men who never used tobacco in the Lutheran Brotherhood cohort study with 20 years follow-up ([Kneller et al., 1991](#)) and in the CPS-II cohort study with 18 years follow-up ([Chao et al., 2002](#)). In the cohort study from Norway (35 years follow-up), a non-significantly elevated risk for snuff use was found ([Boffetta et al., 2005](#)). A total of 343 822 men were analysed in the construction worker cohort study from Sweden (33 years follow-up) and a significant positive relative risk was seen among non-smoking snus users aged 70 and over for cancer in the non-cardia region of the stomach when compared to never users of any tobacco product ([Zendehdel et al., 2008](#); [Table 2.13](#), available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-03-Table2.13.pdf>).

#### (ii) Case-control studies

[Williams & Horm \(1977\)](#), [Hansson et al. \(1994\)](#) and [Ye et al. \(1999\)](#) found no significant associations with the use of smokeless tobacco products or snuff. The study by [Phukan et al. \(2005\)](#) showed a significantly elevated risk for chewing tobacco alone among non-betel quid users (adjusted for tobacco smoking, alcohol drinking, *tuibur*, education, occupation, income) and for *tuibur* use (adjusted for tobacco smoking,

alcohol drinking, education, occupation, income) ([Table 2.14](#), available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-03-Table2.14.pdf>).

#### (iii) Dose-response evidence

In one study, risk increased with cumulative dose of tobacco chewing and for *tuibur* use ( $p$  for trend < 0.001), each adjusted for other confounding factors ([Phukan et al., 2005](#)).

#### (iv) Cessation

[Phukan et al. \(2005\)](#) found that risk decreased with years of cessation of *tuibur* use, although the test for trend was not significant.

#### (b) Cancer of the colon and rectum

In the US Veterans' cohort study with 26 years follow-up ([Heineman et al., 1995](#)), smokeless tobacco users had a relative risk of 1.2 (95%CI: 0.9–1.7; based on 39 deaths) for cancer of the colon and 1.9 (95%CI: 1.2–3.1; based on 17 deaths) for cancer of the rectum compared to those who had never used tobacco. No new data have been published since the previous *IARC Monograph* ([IARC, 2007a](#)).

#### (c) Cancer of the extra-hepatic bile duct

In a population-based case-control study in Los Angeles County, USA ([Chow et al., 1994](#)) an odds ratio of 18 (95%CI: 1.4–227.7; based on 3 cases) was found for chewing tobacco and cancer of the ampulla of Vater. [All cases of cancer of the ampulla of Vater who chewed tobacco also smoked.] There have been no new studies published since the previous *IARC Monograph* ([IARC, 2007a](#)).

#### (d) Cancers of the digestive system combined

A reduced risk with use of smokeless tobacco was seen in the case-control study by [Sterling et al. \(1992\)](#) and in the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES I) follow-up study that analysed 6805 men and women aged



45–75 years at baseline (1971–75) ([Accortt et al., 2002](#)). The entire NHANES I cohort was reassessed between 1982 and 1984 and analysed 7787 subjects aged 45 and over at baseline. The results showed non-significantly elevated risks for those aged 65 years and over in men and aged 45–64 years in women ([Accortt et al., 2005](#)). [The analysis was limited to incident diseases that required an overnight stay in health care facility. Hence, there is a possibility of underrepresentation of the actual number of cancer cases that occurred in the cohort. Analysis was based on a small sample size, 414 exclusive smokeless tobacco users, and chewing tobacco and snuff use were not analysed separately. Pipe and cigar use was not controlled for in the analysis.]

The hazard ratio for men who reported current use of smokeless tobacco and never used other tobacco products was significantly elevated after adjustment for age, race, educational level, BMI, exercise, alcoholic beverage consumption, fat consumption, fruit and vegetable intake and aspirin use in the CPS I cohort but not in the CPS II cohort (additionally adjusted for status and type of employment) ([Henley et al., 2005](#)).

#### (e) *Cancer of the gall bladder*

One case–control study in India found positive associations with chewing *khaini* [raw tobacco with lime] and cancer of the gall bladder (OR, 1.65; 95%CI: 0.78–3.49) or chewing tobacco alone (OR, 2.71, 95%CI: 1.22–6.02), unadjusted for other potential confounding factors ([Shukla et al., 2008](#)).

#### (f) *Cancers of the respiratory tract*

##### (i) *Nasal cavities*

[Brinton et al. \(1984\)](#) in a case–control study found non-significant sex-adjusted odds ratios for tobacco chewers or snuff users while [Stockwell & Lyman \(1986\)](#) found an odds ratio for smokeless tobacco of 3.3 (95%CI, 0.4–25.9), adjusted for age, race, sex and tobacco use. [The

Working Group noted that information about tobacco use was obtained from medical records and ascertainment bias cannot be ruled out.] No new studies were identified since the previous *IARC Monograph* ([IARC, 2007a](#)).

##### (ii) *Larynx*

In a case–control study in Florida, USA, a significantly elevated odds ratio for smokeless tobacco use, adjusted for age, race, sex and tobacco smoking was found ([Stockwell & Lyman, 1986](#)). [The Working Group noted that information about tobacco use was obtained from medical records and ascertainment bias cannot be ruled out.] From a case–control study in Sweden [Lewin et al. \(1998\)](#) reported no significant association for current and former use of snuff, adjusted for age, smoking and alcoholic beverages. No new studies were identified since the previous *IARC Monograph* ([IARC, 2007a](#)).

##### (iii) *Lung*

The NHANES follow-up study ascertained incident cases ([Accortt et al., 2005](#)) and deaths from lung cancer ([Accortt et al., 2002](#)). Never-smoking women who ever used smokeless tobacco had significantly higher mortality compared to never tobacco users. In men, no deaths from lung cancer occurred among those who were never-smokers and used smokeless tobacco. Estimates of the relative risk were adjusted for age, race, poverty index ratio, region of residence, alcoholic beverages, recreational physical exercise and fruit/vegetable intake. The results for cancer incidence ([Accortt et al., 2005](#)) showed significantly elevated risks in women aged 65 years and over, based on small numbers of cases among exclusive smokeless tobacco users ( $n < 4$  cases). No incident cases of lung cancer occurred in men who used smokeless tobacco. Risk was adjusted for age, race and poverty index ratio. [The Working Group noted limitations to this study. See section on cancers of the digestive system (d).]



In the Cancer Prevention Study I (CPS-I) in the USA, the hazard ratio for lung cancer for current smokeless tobacco users who never used other tobacco products was non-significantly elevated and the corresponding hazard ratio in the CPS-II cohort was significantly elevated, after adjusting for age, race, level of education, BMI, exercise, alcoholic beverage consumption, fat consumption, fruit and vegetable intake, aspirin use and status and type of employment (for CPS-II only) ([Henley et al., 2005](#)). The magnitude of effect was similar for those who chewed tobacco but never used snuff and for those who used snuff but never chewed tobacco. In the Norwegian cohort study the relative risk adjusted for age and smoking was non-significantly reduced for ever users of snus compared to never users ([Boffetta et al., 2005](#)). In the Swedish construction worker cohort study with 279 897 men followed for an average of 20 years there was no significant association for snus use among never-smokers ([Luo et al., 2007](#)).

[Henley et al. \(2007\)](#) used CPS II data to compare mortality among former cigarette smokers who switched to smokeless tobacco (switchers) with those who quit using tobacco entirely (quitters), based on tobacco use ascertained at baseline and followed-up for 20 years. In a subset of the cohort that examined uptake of tobacco after baseline, the proportions of persons taking up cigarette smoking was very low. Compared with quitters, the relative risk of lung cancer was 1.5 (95%CI: 1.2–1.7) for all switchers, 1.3 (95%CI: 1.1–1.6) for switchers to tobacco chewing only, 1.8 (95%CI: 1.2–2.5) for snuff only, and 1.9 (95%CI: 1.2–2.9) for tobacco chewing and snuff combined. Compared with men who never used any tobacco product, the relative risk of lung cancer was 3.9 for quitters and 5.6 for switchers (statistically significant but 95% confidence intervals were not provided). Risk estimates were adjusted for age, number of cigarettes formerly smoked per day, number of years smoking cigarettes, age at which they quit smoking cigarettes, race, educational level, BMI,

exercise level, alcohol consumption, employment type, employment status, fat consumption, fruit and vegetable intake and aspirin use. The analysis was restricted to men because women were not asked whether or not they used smokeless tobacco.

The case-control study of lung cancer by [Williams & Horm \(1977\)](#) reported non-significant risk for smokeless tobacco use in men, adjusted for age, race, and smoking.

#### (g) *Sarcoma*

In the US Veterans' cohort, the relative risk for soft-tissue sarcomas associated with smokeless tobacco use compared to persons who never used tobacco products was 1.5 (95%CI: 0.8–2.7) ([Zahm et al., 1992](#)). In a population-based case-control study conducted in the USA, the unadjusted odds ratio for ever use of smokeless tobacco was 1.8 (95%CI: 1.1–2.9); the risk was highest for those diagnosed at age 80 years or above (3.2; 95%CI: 1.0–10.1). Risks were elevated but not significantly so when analysed by anatomical site of the soft-tissue sarcoma (upper gastrointestinal; lung, pleura and thorax; head, neck and face) or by cell type (fibromatous; adipose, myomatous) ([Zahm et al., 1989](#)). No new studies were identified since the previous *IARC Monograph* ([IARC, 2007a](#)).

#### (h) *Cancer of the breast*

[Spangler et al. \(2001, 2002\)](#) conducted a case-control study in Cherokee Native American women and reported a non-significant elevated risk of breast cancer for use of smokeless tobacco. [There was no medical verification of breast cancer and the time relationship between use of smokeless tobacco and breast cancer diagnosis was not reported.] A prospective cohort study of the US population (NHANES I) showed a positive but non-significant association with smokeless tobacco (snuff or chewing tobacco) in women aged 45 years and over based on five breast cancer cases, however the hazard ratios

were below one when stratified by age ([Accortt et al., 2005](#)). [The Working Group noted limitations to this study. See Section on cancer of the digestive system, 2.1.5 (d).]

(i) *Cancer of the uterine cervix*

In a population-based case–control study elevated risks for cervical cancer, adjusted for smoking, age and race, for use of chewing tobacco or snuff were reported ([Williams & Horm, 1977](#)). No new studies were identified since the previous *IARC Monograph* ([IARC, 2007a](#)).

(j) *Cancer of the prostate*

In two cohort studies significantly elevated risks were found among users of smokeless tobacco compared to never users of tobacco ([Hsing et al., 1990, 1991](#)). [Putnam et al. \(2000\)](#) reported no association with use of snuff and chewing tobacco. [The Working Group noted that data were not presented to support this.] In one case–control study ([Hayes et al., 1994](#)) and one cohort study ([Accortt et al., 2005](#)) non-significantly elevated risks of prostate cancer associated with chewing tobacco were found.

(k) *Cancer of the penis*

In a case–control study of cancer and the penis in India, the relative risk for snuff users was 4.2 (95%CI: 1.6–11.3), adjusted for smoking, tobacco chewing and phimosis ([Harish & Ravi, 1995](#)). [It was not clear whether snuff was used orally or nasally.] No new studies were identified since the previous *IARC Monograph* ([IARC, 2007a](#)).

(l) *Cancer of the urinary bladder*

Population-based case–control studies conducted in three provinces of Canada ([Howe et al., 1980](#)), in the USA ([Hartge et al., 1985](#); [Slattery et al., 1988](#)) and in Alberta and Ontario provinces of Canada ([Burch et al., 1989](#)) did not show a significant association between chewing

tobacco and bladder cancer. No association with snuff use was seen in the Norwegian cohort ([Boffetta et al., 2005](#)).

(m) *Cancer of the kidney*

Four case–control studies ([Goodman et al., 1986](#); [McLaughlin et al., 1995](#); [Muscat et al., 1995](#); [Asal et al., 1988](#)) and one cohort study ([Boffetta et al., 2005](#)) evaluated the risk associated with smokeless tobacco use. The adjusted risk for chewing tobacco in non-smokers was not significantly elevated in two case–control studies ([Goodman et al., 1986](#); [McLaughlin et al., 1995](#)) and in one cohort study in Norway ([Boffetta et al., 2005](#)). In two studies, a significant association was reported for ever use of smokeless tobacco ([Asal et al., 1988](#); [Muscat et al., 1995](#)) but there was no adjustment for potential confounders in either study. A dose–response relationship was observed: odds ratio 2.5 (95%CI: 1.0–6.1) for chewing 10 times or fewer per week and 6.0 (95%CI: 1.9–18.7) for chewing 11 or more times per week ([Muscat et al., 1995](#)), although there was no adjustment for smoking and other potentially confounding factors.

(n) *Cancer of the brain*

From a population-based case–control study in the USA ([Zheng et al., 2001](#)), no significantly increased risk of brain cancer was reported for either men or women with the use of snuff or chewing tobacco. [Data to support this were not presented.] No new studies were identified since the previous *IARC Monograph* ([IARC, 2007a](#)).

(o) *Non-Hodgkin lymphoma*

Two population-based case–control studies of non-Hodgkin lymphoma in men were conducted in the USA ([Brown et al., 1992a](#); [Schroeder et al., 2002](#)). [Schroeder et al. \(2002\)](#) found an increased risk for t(14;18)-positive non-Hodgkin lymphoma cases who started chewing tobacco  $\leq 18$  years of age, after adjusting for age and state (OR, 2.5;

95%CI: 1.0–6.0). No significant associations were observed in the study by [Brown et al., \(1992a\)](#) for any non-Hodgkin lymphoma subtype or overall.

[Bracci & Holly \(2005\)](#) from a population-based case-control study of non-Hodgkin lymphoma conducted in the USA reported significantly elevated risks for non-Hodgkin lymphoma and for follicular and diffuse large cell types in those who used smokeless tobacco. Risk estimates were adjusted for age, level of education and level of average weekly alcohol consumption. [The results are based on only seven cases and six controls.]

#### (p) Leukaemia

[Brown et al. \(1992b\)](#) conducted a population-based case-control study in the USA of chewing tobacco/snuff only and risk for leukaemia. Non-significant elevated risks were seen for all leukaemias, chronic myelogenous leukaemia, chronic lymphocytic leukaemia and myelodysplasia. In the Swedish construction worker cohort study (average follow-up 22.2 years), non-significantly elevated risks for acute lymphocytic and chronic myelogenous leukaemias and no association in men for snuff dipping and acute myelogenous leukaemia and multiple myeloma were found ([Fernberg et al., 2007](#)).

#### (q) Myeloma

In a population-based case-control study in the USA, [Brown et al. \(1992a\)](#) compared users of smokeless tobacco only with never users of tobacco and found an odds ratio of 1.9 (95%CI: 0.5–6.6; based on 5 cases). A Swedish construction worker cohort study showed no association for myeloma in men with snuff dipping ([Fernberg et al., 2007](#)).

#### (r) Cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma

[Odenbro et al. \(2005\)](#) analysed the Swedish cohort study and found a relative risk of 0.64 (95%CI: 0.44–0.95) for the association between

snuff dipping and the incidence of cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma.

## 2.2 Nasal use

There are no cohort or case-control studies that examined the association between nasal snuff use and nasal cancer.

### 2.2.1 Cancers of the oral cavity and pharynx

#### (a) Overview of studies

Three case-control studies from India investigated the association between nasal snuff use and cancer of oral and pharyngeal subsites (Table 2.15, available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-03-Table2.15.pdf>).

[Sankaranarayanan et al. \(1989a\)](#) focused on cancer of the anterior two-thirds of tongue and floor of the mouth; the age-adjusted odds ratio was 4.27 (95%CI: 1.24–14.67; men only) for occasional nasal snuff users and 3.02 (95%CI: 0.94–9.60) for daily snuff users. For cancer of the gingiva the odds ratio for regular snuff use was 3.04 (95%CI: 0.67–12.65) after adjustment for daily frequency of use of betel quid, *bidi* smoking and alcoholic beverage use ([Sankaranarayanan et al., 1989b](#)). For cancer of the buccal and labial mucosa, the age-adjusted odds ratio was 3.98 (95%CI: 1.53–10.34) for regular nasal snuff users and 2.28 (95%CI: 0.74–7.03) for occasional nasal snuff users ([Sankaranarayanan et al., 1990a](#)). After adjusting for daily frequency of use of betel quid, *bidi* smoking and alcoholic beverage use, the odds ratio associated with ever snuff use was 2.93 (95%CI: 0.98–8.77).

In a multicentre case-control study of cancer of the hypopharynx in India, [Sapkota et al. \(2007\)](#) found an odds ratio of 2.85 (95%CI: 1.15–7.08) for tobacco snuffing among never-smokers who did not chew tobacco or a non-tobacco product, adjusting for alcohol use, and other factors [The Working Group noted that snuff use was oral as

well as nasal so the role of nasal use could not be determined separately.]

(b) *Dose–response evidence*

In the study of cancer of the gingiva ([Sankaranarayanan et al., 1989b](#)), the age-adjusted odds ratio for daily nasal snuff use was 3.90 (95%CI: 1.19–12.70) and that for occasional use was 3.78 (95%CI: 1.05–13.54). When categories of high versus low defective nasal snuff use were compared, the odds ratios were significantly elevated for the category of lower intensity for cancers of the tongue ([Sankaranarayanan et al., 1989a](#)) and of the buccal and labial mucosa ([Sankaranarayanan et al., 1990a](#)).

### 2.2.2 Other cancers

No new studies were identified since the previous *IARC Monograph* ([IARC, 2007a](#)) for the sites listed except for cancer of the nostril.

(a) *Cancer of the oesophagus*

A case–control study of oesophageal cancer from India showed an age-adjusted odds ratio for daily snuff use of 2.39 (95%CI: 0.81–7.04) and that for occasional use of 3.59 (95%CI: 1.20–10.67) ([Sankaranarayanan et al., 1991](#)). [Estimates were not adjusted for smoking or betel quid chewing.]

(b) *Cancer of the paranasal sinuses*

[Shapiro et al. \(1955\)](#) studied Bantu cases of paranasal sinus cancer from radiation therapy department records from 1949–51 of a group of hospitals in South Africa. The authors noted that a high proportion (80%) of the antral cancer cases reported ‘prolonged and heavy’ use of snuff in contrast to 34% of Bantu men with cancer at other sites. The product snuffed by Bantus typically contained powdered tobacco leaves and an ash from aloe plants or other species, with the occasional addition of oil, lemon juice and herbs; typical use was ‘one teaspoonful’ per day ([Keen et al., 1955](#)). [The Working Group noted that the

source and nature of the control group was not described.]

(c) *Cancer of the larynx*

A case–control study from India ([Sankaranarayanan et al., 1990b](#)) of laryngeal cancer showed a non-significant risk for snuff use.

(d) *Cancer of the lung*

[Hsairi et al. \(1993\)](#) conducted a case–control study of bronchial cancer in Tunisia. The odds ratio for ever use of inhaled snuff (‘tabac à priser’), adjusted for age, sex, cigarette use, water pipe and cannabis use was 2.2 (95%CI: 0.9–5.6).

(e) *Carcinoma of the nostril*

[Sreedharan et al. \(2007\)](#) reported a case of squamous cell carcinoma in the right nostril in a 69-year-old woman in Karnataka, south India, with a history of daily snuff usage of more than 2 g for a duration of 30 years.

## 2.3 Synthesis

### 2.3.1 Oral use

(a) *Oral cavity and pharynx*

Smokeless tobacco was positively associated with cancers of the oral cavity in a cohort study in northern Europe and several case–control studies, some of which that adjusted for smoking and others that adjusted both for smoking and alcohol. There were elevated risks for every type of smokeless tobacco studied: snuff and chewing tobacco in the USA, snus in northern Europe, *toombak* in Sudan, smokeless tobacco used as a dentifrice in India and *naswar* in Pakistan. Case series implicate *shammah* used in Saudi Arabia as a risk factor for oral cancer. Not all reports were positive, namely some studies in Scandinavia and the USA, including two cohorts with small sample sizes. The evidence is strongest for the



oral cavity, with some indication of increased risks for the hypopharynx, or oropharynx and hypopharynx combined. Dose–response relationships with intensity of use were noted in one study and with duration in another. It is unclear whether risks are elevated in former smokeless tobacco users. Three meta-analyses of studies from northern Europe and the USA were generally consistent. In one meta-analysis an overall relative risk of 1.8 (95%CI: 1.1–2.9) was computed for studies that adjusted for smoking or among non-smokers; in another the relative risk was 1.72 (95%CI: 1.01–2.94) among never-smokers and 1.87 (95%CI: 0.82–4.27) when further adjusted for alcohol among never-smokers. In conclusion, there is strong evidence in humans that smokeless tobacco causes cancer of the oral cavity.

#### (b) *Precancerous lesions*

Studies in many countries have observed that oral lesions are more common in smokeless tobacco users than non-users, regardless of the type of smokeless tobacco used. The types include snus, snuff, chewing tobacco, smokeless tobacco used as a dentifrice, *naswar*, *toombak*, and *shammah*. In many studies the oral lesions were observed to be in the place in the mouth where users in that geographic region typically place the smokeless tobacco. The prevalence of the lesions increased with various exposure metrics of increasing intensity and duration of use, such as amounts used per day, time kept in mouth, duration of use in months or years. Although some lesions in young persons resolve, the prevalence of lesions in older adult users of these products remains elevated even in former users. There is some evidence from three studies that a small proportion of the lesions among smokeless tobacco users can progress to oral cancer over a period of years, although the rates vary, are not adjusted for any medical intervention to remove the lesions, smoking has not been taken into account, and the follow-up periods are highly variable. Use of smokeless tobacco causes

leukoplakia and erythroplakia, both considered precancerous, with a much higher risk of progressing to cancer than normal mucosa.

#### (c) *Oesophagus*

Nine studies evaluated the association between smokeless tobacco use and oesophageal cancer. The risks for ever use of smokeless tobacco compared to never use were statistically significantly elevated in one cohort study from Sweden and case–control studies from the Islamic Republic of Iran and India. In a Swedish case–control study, increased risks were observed with 15–35 quids used per week. Smoking could be ruled out as a potential confounder in all of the studies, as well as alcohol intake in two. No increased risk was observed in the three studies from the USA, which included a significant proportion of proxy respondents. Two meta-analyses found that, overall and for the Nordic countries, the estimates of effect for smokeless tobacco use were significantly elevated. The two studies published since the previous *Monograph on Smokeless Tobacco* showed a positive significant association with oesophageal cancer and were adjusted for major confounders. Four of five studies of squamous cell carcinomas and both studies of adenocarcinoma showed significantly positive results.

#### (d) *Pancreas*

In North America, 3 case–control studies showed no association, one cohort study and two case–control studies showed a non-significant increased risk and one case–control study showed a borderline significant increase in risk. While these studies accounted for smoking, none adjusted for BMI or alcohol, potentially important risk factors for pancreatic cancer. In Europe, two cohort studies showed a significant increase in risk of pancreatic cancer associated with snuff use. Both studies controlled for smoking; one study adjusted for BMI and also showed that the highest risks were seen in the highest exposure

**Table 3.1 Carcinogenicity studies of application of smokeless tobacco to the skin of experimental animals**

Species, strain (sex) Reference	Animals/group at start Dosing regimen Duration	Results Target organ Incidence and/or multiplicity of tumours (%)	Significance	Comments
Mouse, CAF1 and Swiss (sex NR) <a href="#">Wynder &amp; Wright (1957)</a>	40, 30 controls Skin application 3 × /wk of unburnt cigarette tobacco 50% methanol extract, (dose NR), controls received whole tar extract; 24 mo	Skin (papillomas): CAF1–11/40 (27%), 16/30 (53%) in controls (8 converted to carcinoma) Swiss–3/40 (7%) (1 converted to carcinoma), 16/30 (53%) in controls (3 converted to carcinoma)	NR NR	No adequate control groups

mo, month or months; NR, not reported

category. There is good evidence to support a causal association between smokeless tobacco use and pancreatic cancer.

#### (e) Stomach

One cohort study in Sweden showed a significantly higher risk among non-smoking snus users aged 70 years and over for cancer in the non-cardia region of the stomach, not adjusted for alcohol use. One case–control study in India showed significantly higher risks for chewing tobacco alone and for *tuibur* users, with dose-dependent increases in risk. Risk decreased with cessation of *tuibur* use. The risk was not statistically significant in the other studies. Despite some positive findings for chewing tobacco in two different countries and for tobacco smoke-infused water, it was not considered strong enough to conclude for a causal association.

#### (f) Lung

In summary, in two cohort studies significant positive associations between smokeless tobacco use and lung cancer were found while in three cohort studies and one case–control study there was no association. In one of the positive cohort studies switching from cigarette smoking to smokeless tobacco significantly increased the risk for lung cancer compared to never-tobacco

users, and the risk was of greater magnitude than for quitting all together (RR, 3.9 versus 5.6).

#### 2.3.2 Nasal use

Strong positive associations for cancers of the tongue and floor of mouth, gingiva and buccal and labial mucosa were observed in one study in India. In one positive study snuff use was oral as well as nasal so the role of nasal use could not be determined separately.

### 3. Cancer in Experimental Animals

Since the previous *IARC Monograph* on Smokeless Tobacco ([IARC, 2007a](#)), only one new study has been published. The collective evidence for the carcinogenicity of smokeless tobacco in experimental animals is summarized below.

#### 3.1 Chewing tobacco, unburned cigarette tobacco, *mishri* and *naswar*

##### 3.1.1 Mouse

Topical application of unburned cigarette tobacco induced skin papillomas in mice ([Wynder & Wright, 1957](#); [Table 3.1](#)). Similar treatment with

**Table 3.2 Carcinogenicity studies on administration of smokeless tobacco with known carcinogens or modifiers to the skin of experimental animals**

Species, strain (sex) Reference	Animals/group at start Dosing regimen Duration	Results Target organ Incidence and/or multiplicity of tumours (%)	Significance
Mouse, Paris albino XVII x 57 black (sex NR) <a href="#">Ranadive et al. (1963)</a>	11–36 animals/ group Totally alkaloid free extract, twice/wk for 95 wk + croton oil/dose and duration not specified, controls received acetone	Papillomas: 22/35 (63%) Controls–3/19 (16%) Carcinomas: 10/35 (27%) Controls–0/19	$P > 0.001$ $P = 0.0097$
Mouse, ICR Swiss (F) <a href="#">Bock et al. (1964, 1965)</a>	30 animals/group A single DMBA application of 125 µg DMBA in 0.25 mL acetone + 0.25 mL acetone extract of unburnt tobacco 2.5 from cigarettes/d, 5 × / wk; controls received a single application of DMBA 125 µg 36 wk	16 papillomas in 7/30 (23%) mice Controls–0/30	$P > 0.01$
Mouse, ICR Swiss (F) <a href="#">Van Duuren et al. (1966)</a>	20 animals/group 150 µg DMBA in 0.1 ml acetone once + (after 2–3 wk) reconstituted extract of flue-cured cigarette tobacco leaf, 25 mg in 0.1 ml solvent, tobacco extract, 3 × /wk; 52 wk	Papillomas: 5/14 (36%) Controls–0/12	$P = 0.04$

d, day or days; F, female; NR, not reported; wk, week or weeks

chewing tobacco extract for 95 weeks followed by croton oil increased the incidence of skin papillomas and carcinomas in mice ([Ranadive et al., 1963](#); [Table 3.2](#)). Application of chewing tobacco extract to benzo[a]pyrene-initiated mouse skin promoted development of a few skin papillomas and carcinomas in mice ([Ranadive et al., 1963](#)). In mice initiated with 7,12-dimethylbenz[a]anthracene (DMBA) applied topically, application of a barium hydroxide extract of unburned tobacco promoted skin papilloma development ([Bock et al., 1964](#); [Table 3.2](#)). Skin-tumour-promoting activity of unburned tobacco was reported in some DMBA-initiated mice in two additional studies ([Bock et al., 1965](#); [Van Duuren et al., 1966](#); [Table 3.2](#)). Application of brown or black *mishri* extracts to DMBA-initiated skin increased significantly the total incidence of papilloma and carcinoma in Swiss mice ([Kulkarni et al., 1989](#); [Table 3.3](#)). Administration of chewing tobacco extracts to the oral mucosa ([Mody & Ranadive,](#)

[1959](#)), skin painting with chewing tobacco extracts ([Mody & Ranadive, 1959](#); [Ranadive et al., 1976](#)), or intravesicular or intravaginal application of *jarda* ([Randeria, 1972](#)) did not induce tumours in mice.

Inhalation of powdered tobacco leaves led to a significant increase in the incidence of tumours of the lung and liver in strain A mice ([Hamazaki & Murao, 1969](#); [Table 3.4](#)). Mice given chewing tobacco extract by oral intubation developed lung adenocarcinoma and hepatocellular carcinoma in one study [with incomplete reporting of the distribution of different neoplasms] ([Bhide et al., 1984](#)). Adding black or brown *mishri* in the diet increased significantly the incidence of forestomach papilloma in Swiss mice ([Kulkarni et al., 1988](#); [Table 3.5](#)).

**Table 3.3 Carcinogenicity studies of *mishri* alone or with known carcinogens or modifiers to the skin of experimental animals**

Species, strain (sex) Reference	Animals/group at start Dosing regimen Duration	Results Target organ Incidence and/or multiplicity of tumours (%)	Significance
Mouse Swiss (M) <a href="#">Kulkarni et al., (1989)</a>	30 animals Topical/a single application of 200 nmol DMBA; 24 mo	No tumours	
	29 animals 200 nmol DMBA + 2.5 mg per application of black <i>mishri</i> extract, 5 d/wk for 20 wk; 24 mo	Skin papillomas: 4/29 (14%)	$P < 0.05$
	30 animals Topical application of black <i>mishri</i> extract, 2.5 mg per application, 5 d/wk for 20 wk; 24 mo	No skin tumours	
	30 animals 200 nmol DMBA + 2.5 mg per application of brown <i>mishri</i> extract, 5 d/wk for 20 wk; 24 mo	Skin papillomas: 4/30 (13%)	$P < 0.05$

d, day or days; M, male; mo, month or months; wk, week or weeks

### 3.1.2 Rat

Administration of chewing tobacco extract by gavage to vitamin-A-sufficient rats induced benign tumours in the lung and forestomach while similarly treated vitamin-A-deficient rats developed benign tumours in the stomach and pituitary gland and “lymphoma” in the lung [extremely rare tumour in rats] ([Bhide et al., 1991](#); [Table 3.6](#)).

Administration of *mishri* by gavage to vitamin-A-sufficient or vitamin-A-deficient rats increased significantly the proportion of tumour-bearing rats in both groups. Lung adenomas and forestomach papillomas developed in vitamin-A-sufficient animals while multiple neoplasms including lung lymphoma [an extremely rare tumour in rats] pituitary adenoma and forestomach papilloma occurred in vitamin-A-deficient animals. Control animals did not develop tumours ([Ammigan et al., 1991](#); [Table 3.5](#)). No tumours appeared when chewing tobacco extract was applied to the oral mucosa ([Gothoskar et al.,](#)

[1975](#)). Adding black or brown *mishri* in the diet increased significantly the incidence of forestomach papillomas in male and female Sprague-Dawley rats ([Kulkarni et al., 1988](#); [Table 3.5](#)).

### 3.1.3 Hamster

Application of a chewing tobacco extract to the cheek pouch of Syrian golden hamsters produced squamous cell papillomas and/or carcinomas in a small number of animals ([Rao, 1984](#); [Table 3.7](#)). Adding black or brown *mishri* in the diet significantly increased the incidence of forestomach papillomas ([Kulkarni et al., 1988](#); [Table 3.5](#)). Implantation of chewing tobacco in the cheek pouch ([Peacock & Brawley, 1959](#); [Peacock et al., 1960](#); [Dunham & Herrold, 1962](#); [Summerlin et al., 1992](#)), or application of chewing tobacco extract ([Suri et al., 1971](#); [Ranadive et al., 1976](#)) or *jarda* ([Kandarkar et al., 1981](#)) to the cheek pouch did not induce tumours.

Application of *naswar* to the cheek pouch for life increased incidence of tumours in treated



Table 3.4 Carcinogenicity studies of inhalation of smokeless tobacco in experimental animals

Species, strain (sex) Reference	Animals/group at start Dosing regimen Duration	Results Target organ Incidence and/or multiplicity of tumours (%)	Significance	Comments
Mouse, Strain A (M) <a href="#">Hamazaki &amp; Murao (1969)</a>	80 animals/group Inhalation of powdered tobacco leaf, dose (NR), alternate days, controls were untreated; 30 mo	Treated– Lung tumours 12/75 (16%; alveologenic carcinomas 6, squamous cell carcinomas 3, malignant adenomas 3) Leukaemia 11/80 (15%) Hepatocellular carcinomas 3/75 (4%) Controls– Malignant lung adenomas 1/80 Leukaemia 2/80 Hepatocellular carcinomas 0/80 Controls– Malignant lung adenomas 1/80 Leukaemia 2/80 Hepatocellular carcinomas 0/80	Lung tumours: $P < 0.001$ Leukaemias: $P < 0.01$          $P < 0.01$	The incidence of lung tumours and leukaemia was significantly increased in treated animals, the incidence of lung and liver tumours in the untreated controls was unusually low

M, male; mo, month or months, NR, not reported

**Table 3.5 Carcinogenicity studies of oral administration of *mishri* alone or with modifiers to experimental animals**

Species, strain (sex) Reference	Animals/group at start Dosing regimen Duration	Results Target organ Incidence and/or multiplicity of tumours (%)	Significance
Mouse, Swiss (M, F) <a href="#">Kulkarni et al. (1988)</a>	26 animals/sex/group Black <i>mishri</i> 10% in diet for 20 mo; 25 mo	Forestomach (papillomas): M–11/24 (46%) F–11/26 (42%)	$P < 0.01$ vs controls
	26 animals/sex/group Brown <i>mishri</i> 10% in diet for 20 mo; 25 mo	Forestomach (papillomas): M–14/26 (54%) F–11/26 (42%)	$P < 0.01$ vs controls
	27 M, 31 F (controls) No <i>mishri</i> tobacco, standard diet only; 25 mo	Forestomach (papillomas): M–3/27 (11%) F–1/31 (3%)	$P < 0.01$ vs controls
Rat Sprague Dawley (M, F) <a href="#">Kulkarni et al. (1988)</a>	27 M, 24 F Brown <i>mishri</i> 10% in diet for 20 mo; 25 mo	Forestomach (papillomas): M–10/27 (37%) F–9/24 (37%)	$P < 0.01$ vs controls
	25 M, 30 F No <i>mishri</i> tobacco, standard diet only; 25 mo	Forestomach (papillomas): M, F–0%	$P < 0.01$ vs controls
	23 M, 26 F Black <i>mishri</i> 10% in diet for 20 mo; 25 mo	Forestomach (papillomas): M–10/23 (43%) F–7/26 (27%)	$P < 0.01$ vs controls $P < 0.02$ vs controls
Hamster Syrian Golden (M, F) <a href="#">Kulkarni et al. (1988)</a>	28M, 20F Brown <i>mishri</i> 10% in diet for 20 mo; 25 mo	Forestomach (papillomas): M–12/28 (43%) F–5/20 (25%)	$P < 0.01$ vs controls $P < 0.01$ vs controls
	23 animals/sex No <i>mishri</i> tobacco, standard diet only; 25 mo	Forestomach (papillomas): M–2/23 (9%) F–1/23 (4%)	
	30 or 31 animals/group VitA sufficient diet + 3 mg <i>mishri</i> extract per application by gavage 5 × /wk; 21 mo Controls received VitA sufficient diet + 0.05 ml per application DMSO by gavage 5 × /wk; 21 mo	Lung (adenomas and stomach papillomas): 8/30 (27%) Controls–0/31	Total tumour incidence treated vs controls $P < 0.001$
Rat Sprague Dawley (M) <a href="#">Ammigan et al. (1991)</a>	30 animals/group Vit A deficient diet + 3 mg <i>mishri</i> extract per application by gavage 5 × /wk; 21 mo Controls received Vit A deficient diet + 0.05 ml per application DMSO by gavage 5 × /wk; 21 mo	28/30 (93%) Controls–0/30	Total tumour incidence Vit deficient vs controls $P < 0.001$

F, female; M, male; mo, month or months; vs, versus; wk, week or weeks

**Table 3.6 Carcinogenicity studies of oral administration of chewing tobacco in experimental animals**

Species, strain (sex) Reference	Animals/group at start Dosing regimen Duration	Results Target organ Incidence and/or multiplicity of tumours (%)	Significance	Comments
Rat Sprague Dawley (M) <a href="#">Bhide et al. (1991)</a>	29, 31 controls Diet containing shark liver oil + tobacco by gavage, 3mg tobacco extract (vacuum dried powder of 100 g tobacco extracted with 1L dichloromethane) in 0.05 ml DMSO, 5 × /wk; controls received diet containing shark liver oil + 0.05 ml DMSO 5 d/wk; 21 mo	Lung (adenomas): 3/29 (10%) Forestomach (papillomas): 3/29 (10%) Controls–0/31	$P < 0.05 \chi^2$ test	
	31, 30 controls Diet containing shark liver oil + tobacco by gavage, diet without shark liver oil + tobacco by gavage; controls received diet without shark liver oil + 0.05 ml DMSO, 5 × /wk; 21 mo	Lung (lymphomas): 22/31 (71%) Pituitary (adenomas): 19/31 (61%) Stomach (papillomas): 24/31 (77%) Controls–0/30	$P < 0.001 \chi^2$ test	Primary lymphoma of the lung is extremely rare in rats

d, day or days; mo, month or months; wk, week or weeks

**Table 3.7 Carcinogenicity studies of smokeless tobacco to the oral mucosa or cheek pouch of experimental animals**

Species, strain (sex) Reference	Animals/group at start Dosing regimen Duration	Results Target organ Incidence and/or multiplicity of tumours (%)	Significance	Comments
Hamster Syrian golden (M) <a href="#">Suri et al. (1971)</a>	11–12 animals/group Banarasi Tobacco-DMSO extract/not specified; application to the cheek pouch 3 × /wk for 21 wk; controls received DMSO; 21 wk	No tumours found in treated and control animals Leukoplakia: 8/12 (67%)		Short duration of exposure, tobacco/DMSO dose not specified
Hamster Syrian golden (F) <a href="#">Rao (1984)</a>	20, 10 controls Topical application to the cheek pouch of lyophilised aqueous tobacco extract, 1 mg in 0.05 mL water twice/d for 6 mo; controls received topical application of 0.05 mL water; 12 mo	Squamous cell papillomas and carcinomas: 3/17 (18%) Controls–no tumours	NR	Statistics not provided

D, day or days; F, female; M, male; mo, month or months; NR, not reported; wk, week or weeks

**Table 3.8 Carcinogenicity studies of naswar with known carcinogens or modifiers to the skin of experimental animals**

Species, strain (sex) Reference	Animals/group at start Dosing regimen Duration	Results Target organ Incidence and/or multiplicity of tumours (%)	SSignificance	Comments
Hamster Syrian golden (M, F) <a href="#">Kiseleva et al. (1976)</a>	33 M, 28 F <i>Naswar</i> introduced as dry powder in the left buccal pouch (mixture of tobacco 45%, lime 8%, ash 30%, plant oil 12% and water 5%, dose (NR); life time	13 animals with tumours: Liver-6 Mixed-1 Adrenal gland-3 Forestomach-1 Uterus/ovary-1 Skin (melanoma)-1 Large intestine-1	Tumour frequency higher than in controls $P < 0.05$	Dose of <i>naswar</i> not specified Tumour type not specified genderwise
	24 M, 13 F <i>Nas</i> introduced as sunflower oil suspension in the left buccal pouch	Liver: 1 Uterus/ovary: 2 Skin (Papilloma): 1	Tumour frequency higher than in controls, $P < 0.05$	
	46 M, 40 F <i>Nas</i> introduced as sunflower oil suspension in the left buccal pouch	13 animals with tumours: Liver-4 Mixed-1 Adrenal gland-3 Forestomach (papillomas)-4 Uterus/ovary-1 Skin (papilloma)-1 Pancreas-1 No tumours	Tumour frequency higher than in controls $P < 0.05$	
	41 M, 9 F <i>Nas</i> suspension in sunflower oil introduced in oesophagus	3 animals with tumours: Liver-1 Adrenal gland-1 Forestomach (papilloma)-1		
	31 M, 19 F <i>Nas</i> suspension in sunflower oil applied to dorsal skin	2 animals with tumours: Stomach-1 Adrenal gland-1		
41 M, 69 F Untreated controls				

Table 3.8 (continued)

Species, strain (sex) Reference	Animals/group at start Dosing regimen Duration	Results Target organ Incidence and/or multiplicity of tumours (%)	SSignificance	Comments
Hamster Syrian golden (M, F) <a href="#">Milievskaia &amp; Kiseleva (1976)</a>	184 animals <i>Naswar</i> introduced in the buccal pouch as dry powder or 50% suspension in sunflower oil; life time  30 animals DMBA only introduced in the buccal pouch once  30 animals 0.1 g DMBA only + <i>naswar</i> introduced in the buccal pouch as dry powder or 50% suspension in sunflower oil; life time  110 untreated controls	Buccal pouch: 0 Forestomach: 5 Liver: 13 Adrenal gland: 6 Others: 9  Buccal pouch: 1 Stomach: 2   Buccal pouch: 0 Stomach: 5 Others: 1  Stomach: 1 Adrenal gland: 1	NR	The number of animals that survived at the time of first tumour appearance was small High mortality was seen even in control animals

F, female; M, male; NR, not reported

**Table 3.9 Carcinogenicity studies of oral administration of snuff to experimental animals**

Reference Species, strain (sex)	Animals/group at start Dosing regimen Duration	Results Target organ Incidence and/or multiplicity of tumours (%)	Significance	Comments
<a href="#">Stenström <i>et al.</i> (2007)</a>	5.9% snuff diet (snus mixed with powdered standard mouse show); 6 mo	Gastric carcinoma in situ		
Mouse, wild type, FVB (M)	8, 11 controls	0/8 Controls: 0/11	NR	
Wild type, FVB <i>Helicobacter pylori</i> infected (M)	20, 8 controls	9/17 Controls: 0/11	NR	Gastric carcinoma in situ invading the mucosa and submucosa
INS-GAS (M)	8 animals/group	4/8 Controls: 2/8	NR	
INS-GAS (M) <i>Helicobacter pylori</i> - infected (M)	22, 8 controls	12/12 Controls: 2/8	NR	Gastric carcinoma in situ invading the mucosa

M, male; mo, month or months; NR, not reported

**Table 3.10 Carcinogenicity studies of snuff to the oral mucosa or cheek pouch of experimental animals**

Species, strain (sex) Reference	Animals/group at start Dosing regimen Duration	Results Target organ Incidence and/or multiplicity of tumours (%)	Significance
Rat, Sprague Dawley (M) <a href="#">Johansson et al. (1989)</a>	30 animals/group Snuff insertion in lip canal, 100 mg per application twice/d, 5 d/wk, controls received cotton pellet dipped in saline; 108 wk	Squamous cell carcinomas: 5 (lip–1, hard palate–2, nasal cavity–1, forestomach–1) Squamous cell carcinomas in situ: hard palate–1 Squamous cell papillomas: 3 (lip–1, hard palate–1, nasal cavity–1) Undifferentiated lip sarcomas: 2 Controls: no tumours	All squamous cell tumours $P < 0.01$ Malignant squamous cell tumours $P < 0.05$
Rat, Sprague-Dawley (M) <a href="#">Johansson et al. (1991)</a>	38, 30 controls Snuff inserted in surgically created lip canal, moist snuff, 150–200 mg/ application twice/d, 5 d/wk for 104 wk, controls received a cotton pellet dipped in saline once/d 5 d/wk for 100 wk	Sarcoma of the lip: 10/38 (26%) Squamous cell carcinomas and papillomas of the oral cavity: 3/38 (8%) (lip palate and buccal mucosa), Controls–1/30 (3%) sarcoma of the lip	Comparison of sarcoma $P < 0.01$ Comparison of all tumours $P < 0.01$

d, day or days; M, male; wk, week or weeks

hamsters compared to controls ([Kiseleva et al., 1976](#); [Milievska & Kiseleva, 1976](#); [Table 3.8](#)).

## 3.2 Snuff

### 3.2.1 Mouse

Addition of snuff (snus) to the diet induced stomach tumours in gastrin transgenic mice but not in wild-type mice unless they were infected with *Helicobacter pylori* (*H. pylori*). Feeding snuff to *H. pylori*-infected transgenic mice increased gastric carcinoma incidence 2-fold versus control transgenic mice ([Stenström et al., 2007](#); [Table 3.9](#)).

### 3.2.2 Rat

Application of snuff to the oral mucosa ([Chen, 1989](#)) or swabbing of lips and oral cavity with a snuff extract ([Hecht et al., 1986](#)) did not induce tumours.

In one study, the administration of snuff in a surgically created lip canal did not induce

tumours in the oral cavity ([Hirsch et al., 1984](#)) while a squamous cell carcinoma of the oral mucosa developed in one rat in another study ([Hirsch & Johansson, 1983](#)). Insertion of snuff in a surgically prepared lip canal induced a squamous cell carcinoma in the lip canal, a papilloma in the oral cavity and an olfactory tumour ([Hecht et al., 1986](#)).

Insertion of snuff in a surgically prepared lip canal induced squamous cell carcinoma in the lip, hard palate, nasal cavity and forestomach and a carcinoma in situ in the hard palate. In addition, the treated animals developed squamous cell papillomas in the lip, hard palate and nasal cavity and two undifferentiated lip sarcomas. The incidence of all squamous cell tumours, squamous cell carcinomas and the total number of tumours in the treated group were significantly greater than in controls ([Johansson et al., 1989](#); [Table 3.10](#)).

In another independent study, the insertion of snuff in the surgically prepared lip canal induced two squamous cell papillomas in the lip,



**Table 3.11 Carcinogenicity studies of snuff with known carcinogens or modifiers to experimental animals**

Species, strain (sex) Reference	Animals/group at start Dosing regimen Duration	Results Target organ Incidence and/or multiplicity of tumours (%)	Significance
Rat, Sprague-Dawley (M) <a href="#">Johansson <i>et al.</i> (1991)</a>	40 animals/group with surgically created lip canal	Sarcomas of the lip: 9/40 (22%)	Significant increase in lip sarcoma over Group 1
	Group 1: DMBA in mineral oil – 70 mg solution + a cotton pellet containing saline 1 × /d, 5 d/wk + snuff 150–200 mg/application.	Squamous cell carcinomas and papillomas of the oral cavity (lip, palate, and buccal mucosa): 3/40 (7%) Controls: 0/40	
	Group 2: DMBA initiation as for control group + snuff in the lip canal twice/d, 5 d/wk.		
	Group 3: Controls initiated with cotton pellets containing 0.1% DMBA in mineral oil in lip canal 3 × /wk for 4 wk only, 104 wk		
	38, 40 controls		
Hamster Syrian golden (M) <a href="#">Park <i>et al.</i> (1986)</a>	Group 4: Initiation with 4 NQO as for control group + snuff in the lip canal twice/d, 5 d/wk, 70 mg 4NQO sol + cotton pellet containing saline 1 × /d, 5 d/wk + snuff 150 – 200 mg/application.	Sarcoma of the lip: 25/38 (66%) Controls–1/40 (2%)	Significant increase in lip sarcoma over control
	Group 5: Controls initiated with 4 NQO (0.5% in propylene glycol) in cotton pellet placed in lip canal 3 × /wk for 4 wk only, 70 mg 4NQO sol + cotton dipped in saline inserted in the lip canal once/d, 5d/wk; 100 wk	Squamous cell carcinomas and papillomas of the oral cavity (lip, palate, and buccal mucosa): 8/38 (21%) Controls–9/40 (22%)	
	15–20 animals/group		
	Cheek pouches inoculated with HSV1 or HSV2 (groups 1 and 1'), once/mo for 6 mo (no snuff); 6 mo	No tumours 0/19 (HSV1) No tumours 0/16 (HSV2)	
	Cheek pouches inoculated with HSV1 once/mo + snuff 150 mg/pouch, in both pouches twice/d, 5 d/wk for 6 mo; 6 mo (Group 2)	Invasive squamous cell buccal pouch carcinomas: 10/20 (50%)	
	Cheek pouches inoculated with HSV2 once a mo + Snuff 150 mg/pouch in both pouches twice/d, 5 d/wk for 6 mo; 6 mo (Group 3)	Invasive squamous cell buccal pouch carcinoma: 11/20 (55%)	Increase in carcinoma $P < 0.05$ Group 2 vs Group 1
			Increase in carcinoma $P < 0.05$ Group 3 vs Group 1'

Table 3.11 (continued)

Species, strain (sex) Reference	Animals/group at start Dosing regimen Duration	Results Target organ Incidence and/or multiplicity of tumours (%)	Significance
Hamster Syrian golden (M) <a href="#">Gijare <i>et al.</i> (1990)</a>	15 or 20 animals/group Application of 0.125 mg DMBA in 50 µl oil, twice/wk for 1 mo to both cheek pouches 0.25% in liquid paraffin; 6 mo	Cheek pouch tumours: 10/15 (66%) Forestomach tumours: 15/15 (100%)	NR
	Application of 0.125 mg DMBA in 50 ml oil, twice/wk for 1 mo + 50 µl snuff in liquid paraffin 20 mg per cheek pouch twice/wk to both cheek pouches 0.25% in liquid paraffin + Manglorian snuff; 6 mo	Cheek pouch tumours: 3/20 (15%) Forestomach tumours: 20/20 (100%)	NR
	Application of 50 µl snuff in liquid paraffin, 20 mg per cheek pouch twice/wk to both cheek pouches; 6 mo	Cheek pouch tumours: 0/20 Forestomach tumours: 17/20 (85%)	NR
	Application of 0.125 mg DMBA in 50 ml oil, twice/wk for 1 mo + 50 µl scented snuff in liquid paraffin 20 mg per cheek pouch twice/wk to both cheek pouches 0.25% in liquid paraffin + Scented snuff; 6 mo	Cheek pouch tumours: 2/20 (10%) Forestomach tumours: 19/20 (95%)	NR
	Untreated controls	No tumours	

d, day or days; M, male; mo, month or months; NR, not reported; vs, versus; wk, week or weeks

10 lip sarcomas and three squamous cell carcinomas in the hard palate. In the control group, a lip sarcoma occurred in one rat. The total incidence of epithelial and mesenchymal tumours of the lip and oral cavity and the incidence of lip sarcoma was significantly greater in snuff-treated rats than in controls ([Johansson et al., 1991](#); [Table 3.10](#)).

In one study, animals were repeatedly administered snuff extracts by the subcutaneous route. No local tumours developed in either treated or control groups ([Schmähl, 1965](#)).

Application of snuff to the surgically created lip canal of rats infected with HSV 1 resulted in the development of squamous cell carcinoma of the oral cavity in 2/7 (28%) rats and a retroperitoneal sarcoma developed in one rat. In the group exposed to snuff alone, one rat each developed a squamous cell carcinoma of the anus and a retroperitoneal sarcoma ([Hirsch et al., 1984](#)).

In animals whose hard palate was treated with 4-Nitroquinoline 1-oxide (4NQO), repeated application of snuff did not enhance the incidence of benign and malignant oral cavity tumours over that in animals treated with 4NQO alone ([Johansson et al., 1989](#)). However, in another study, application of snuff to a 4NQO-treated surgically created lip canal increased the incidence of lip sarcoma ([Johansson et al., 1991](#); [Table 3.10](#)).

### 3.2.3 Hamster

In hamsters infected with HSV1 or HSV2, insertion of snuff in the cheek pouch increased significantly the incidence of squamous cell carcinoma over that in animals infected with HSV1 or HSV2 and not administered snuff ([Park et al., 1986](#); [Table 3.11](#)). Application of a snuff suspension alone to the cheek pouch resulted in the development of stomach papillomas but did not increase the forestomach papilloma incidence in animals initiated with DMBA ([Gijare et al., 1990](#)). In one study, chronic feeding of

snuff and calcium hydroxide induced a pancreatic carcinoid in one animal only ([Dunham et al., 1975](#)) but did not induce any tumours in another study ([Homburger et al., 1976](#)). Snuff instillation in the cheek pouch did not induce tumours in six studies ([Peacock & Brawley, 1959](#); [Peacock et al., 1960](#), [Dunham & Herrold, 1962](#); [Dunham et al., 1975](#); [Homburger et al., 1976](#); [Park et al., 1986](#)).

## 3.3 Synthesis

In animals administered various smokeless tobacco preparations, consistent increases were observed for forestomach, lung, oral cavity and nasal tumours in rats; lung, skin, forestomach and liver tumours in mice; and oral cavity (cheek pouch) and forestomach tumours in hamsters.

## 4. Other Relevant Data

See Section 4 of the *Monograph on Tobacco Smoking* in this volume.

## 5. Evaluation

There is *sufficient evidence* in humans for the carcinogenicity of smokeless tobacco. Smokeless tobacco causes cancers of the oral cavity, oesophagus and pancreas.

There is *sufficient evidence* in experimental animals for the carcinogenicity of smokeless tobacco.

Smokeless tobacco is *carcinogenic to humans* (Group 1).

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\* Exceptionally, the most recent updates of well-established ongoing surveys and reports, published after the meeting, were included in this Monograph. The methodology and data available at the time of the meeting were reviewed by the Working Group; the updates reflect the most current estimates of prevalence of exposure and therefore have no influence on the final evaluation.



# TOBACCO SMOKING

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Tobacco smoking was considered by previous IARC Working Groups in 1986, 1987 and 2002 ([IARC, 1986, 1987, 2004a](#)). Since that time, new data have become available, these have been incorporated into the *Monograph*, and taken into consideration in the present evaluation.

## 1. Exposure Data

### 1.1 Smoked tobacco products

Smoked forms of tobacco include various kinds of cigarettes (manufactured, hand-rolled, filtered, un-filtered and flavoured), cigars and pipes. While cigarette smoking, particularly manufactured cigarettes, is by far the main form of tobacco smoked globally, in some countries other forms of smoked tobacco are dominant ([IARC, 2004a](#)). In India, for example, bidis (made of coarse and uncured tobacco) account for about 60% of smoked tobacco products whereas cigarettes account for 20% ([Ray & Gupta, 2009](#); [IIPS, 2010](#)). Water pipes, another form of smoked tobacco known by other various names such as gaza, hookah, narghile, shisha, hubble-bubble, are commonly smoked in the Eastern Mediterranean region, in some parts of Asia including India, and in North Africa ([Asma et al., 2009](#)).

### 1.2 Chemical composition of tobacco smoke

#### 1.2.1 Smoke from cigarettes

One cubic cm of fresh, un-aged cigarette mainstream smoke [the smoke emerging from the mouth end of a cigarette during smoking] has about  $4 \times 10^9$  particles with a mean diameter of about  $0.2 \mu\text{m}$  ([Borgerding & Klus, 2005](#)). The size of the particles increases as the smoke ages. Temperatures in the burning cone of the cigarette are about  $800^\circ\text{C}$  during the smoulder period between puffs and increase to  $910\text{--}920^\circ\text{C}$  at the periphery of the cone during puffing ([Borgerding & Klus, 2005](#)). Hydrogen is generated in the glowing cone, resulting in an oxygen deficient reducing atmosphere ([Borgerding & Klus, 2005](#)). The approximate composition of mainstream smoke of a plain cigarette is summarized in [Table 1.1](#) ([Borgerding & Klus, 2005](#)). The total particulate matter, after subtraction of the amounts of nicotine and water, is referred to as 'tar'.

Over 5300 compounds have been identified in tobacco smoke ([Rodgman & Perfetti, 2009](#)). Classes of compounds include but are not limited to neutral gases, carbon and nitrogen oxides, amides, imides, lactams, carboxylic acids, lactones, esters, aldehydes, ketones,

**Table 1.1 Approximate chemical composition of mainstream smoke generated by a plain cigarette**

Compound or class of components	Relative amount w/w (%)
Nitrogen	58
Oxygen	12
Carbon dioxide	13
Carbon monoxide	3.5
Hydrogen, argon	0.5
Water	1
Volatile organic substances	5
Particulate phase	8

From [Borgerding & Klus \(2005\)](#)

alcohols, phenols, amines, *N*-nitrosamines, *N*-heterocyclics, aliphatic hydrocarbons, monocyclic and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), nitriles, anhydrides, carbohydrates, ethers, nitro compounds and metals ([Rodgman & Perfetti, 2009](#)).

The addictive properties of tobacco smoke are attributed to nicotine, the principal tobacco alkaloid in smoke ([Hukkanen et al., 2005](#)). Minor tobacco alkaloids include nornicotine, anatabine and anabasine ([Hukkanen et al., 2005](#)). The tobacco alkaloids are not generally considered carcinogenic, but are accompanied by carcinogens in each puff of smoke.

There are over 70 carcinogens in tobacco smoke that have been evaluated by the *IARC Monographs* programme as having sufficient evidence for carcinogenicity in either laboratory animals or humans ([IARC, 2004a](#)). The different chemical classes of carcinogens and representatives of each are presented in [Table 1.2](#) ([IARC, 2004a](#)). Sixteen of these – benzo[*a*]pyrene (BaP), 4-(methylnitrosamino)-1-(3-pyridyl)-1-butanone (NNK) and *N'*-nitrosonornicotine (NNN), 2-naphthylamine, 4-aminobiphenyl, formaldehyde, 1,3-butadiene, benzene, vinyl chloride, ethylene oxide, arsenic, beryllium, nickel compounds, chromium VI, cadmium, and polonium-210 – are classified as carcinogenic to

humans (Group 1). Structures of some representative carcinogens in cigarette smoke are shown in Fig. 1.1. There are other likely carcinogens in cigarette smoke that have not been evaluated by the *IARC Monographs* programme. These include, for example, PAHs with incompletely characterized occurrence levels and carcinogenic activities; over 500 PAHs have been identified ([Rodgman & Perfetti, 2006](#)).

PAHs, tobacco-specific *N*-nitrosamines, aromatic amines, aldehydes and certain volatile organics likely contribute significantly to the carcinogenic activity of tobacco smoke ([Hecht, 2003](#)).

In the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, PAHs were identified as carcinogenic constituents of coal tar ([Phillips, 1983](#)). They are products of incomplete combustion of all organic matter and occur, always as complex mixtures, in tars, soots, broiled foods, vehicle engine exhaust and tobacco smoke. PAHs are generally locally acting carcinogens, and some, such as the prototypic compound BaP, have strong carcinogenic activity on mouse skin and in rodent lung. Heterocyclic analogues of PAHs also occur in cigarette smoke. Concentrations of individual PAHs in mainstream cigarette smoke are generally in the range of 1–50 ng per cigarette ([IARC, 2004a](#)).

Among the carcinogenic *N*-nitrosamines in tobacco smoke are tobacco-specific *N*-nitrosamines, which are derived from, and structurally related to, the tobacco alkaloids. Two of the most important of these are NNK and NNN ([Hecht & Hoffmann, 1988](#)). Levels of NNK and NNN in cigarette smoke vary depending on tobacco type and other factors, but are frequently in the range of 50–200 ng per cigarette ([IARC, 2004a](#)).

Aromatic amines were first identified as human carcinogens from industrial exposures in the dye industry in the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. They include the well known human bladder carcinogens 2-naphthylamine and 4-aminobiphenyl which, along with other

**Table 1.2 Tobacco smoke carcinogens evaluated in the IARC Monographs**

Chemical Class	Number of Carcinogens	Representative Carcinogens
Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) and their heterocyclic analogues	15	Benzo[a]pyrene (BaP) Dibenz[a,h]anthracene
N-Nitrosamines	8	4-(Methylnitrosamino)-1-(3-pyridyl)-1-butanone (NNK) N'-Nitrosoornicotine (NNN)
Aromatic amines	12	4-Aminobiphenyl 2-Naphthylamine
Aldehydes	2	Formaldehyde Acetaldehyde
Phenols	2	Catechol Caffeic acid
Volatile hydrocarbons	3	Benzene 1,3-Butadiene Isoprene
Other organics	12	Ethylene oxide Acrylonitrile
Inorganic compounds	8	Cadmium Polonium-210

There are many other carcinogens in cigarette smoke that have not been evaluated in an *IARC Monograph*.  
From [IARC \(2004a\)](#)

isomers, are found in cigarette smoke, but their levels are generally quite low (1–20 ng per cigarette) ([IARC, 2004a](#)).

Aldehydes such as formaldehyde and acetaldehyde occur widely in the human environment and are also found in human blood. Concentrations of acetaldehyde and formaldehyde in cigarette smoke are far higher than those of PAHs, N-nitrosamines or aromatic amines but their carcinogenic activities are weak ([Hecht, 2003](#)). Cigarette mainstream smoke typically contains 10–30 µg formaldehyde/cigarette and 800–900 µg acetaldehyde/cigarette ([IARC, 2004a](#)).

Volatile hydrocarbons in cigarette smoke include 1,3-butadiene, a powerful multi-organ carcinogen in the mouse, and benzene, a known human leukaemogen. 1,3-Butadiene (20–40 µg/cigarette) and benzene (12–50 µg/cigarette) are two of the most prevalent strong carcinogens in cigarette smoke ([IARC, 2004a](#)).

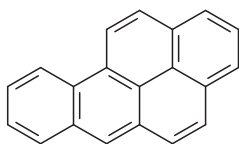
In summary, cigarette smoke is an exceedingly complex mixture which contains over 5300

compounds including multiple toxicants and carcinogens.

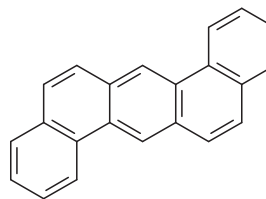
### 1.2.2 Smoke from other tobacco products

Some constituents have been measured in roll-your-own cigarettes, and their levels are comparable to or higher than those in commercial brands. Carcinogen and toxicant levels expressed per unit are higher in cigars than in cigarettes because of their larger size, and in some instances are also higher per litre of smoke. Levels of nicotine and tobacco-specific nitrosamines were comparable in bidis and commercial Indian cigarettes; bidis also contain high levels of eugenol, as do kreteks. Levels of NNK and NNN in chuttas were considerably higher than in standard cigarettes ([IARC, 2004a](#)).

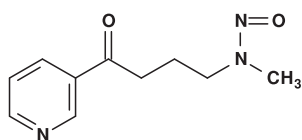
**Fig. 1.1 Structures of some representative tobacco smoke carcinogens**



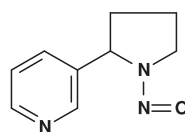
**benzo[a]pyrene (BaP)**



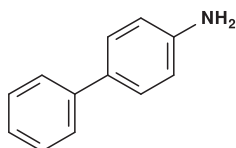
**dibenz[a,h]anthracene**



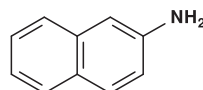
**4-(methylnitrosamino)-1-(3-pyridyl)-1-butanone (NNK)**



**N'-nitrososornicotine (NNN)**



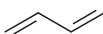
**4-aminobiphenyl**



**2-naphtylamine**



**benzene**

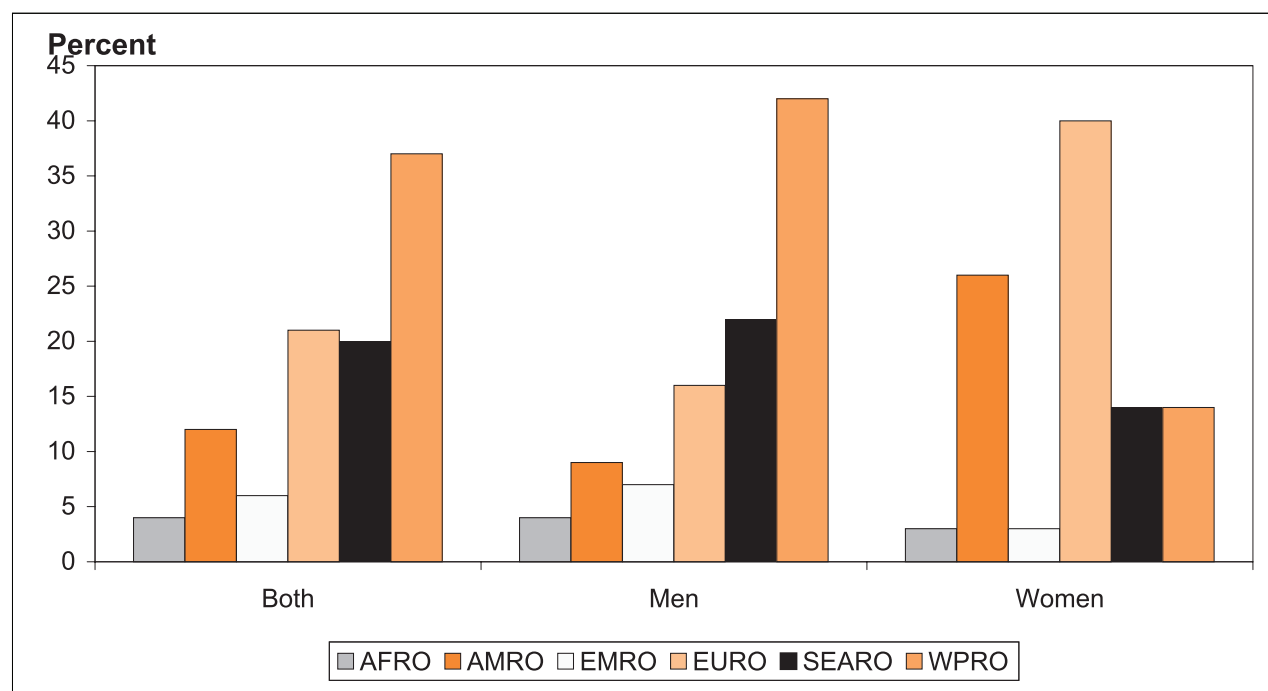


**1,3-butadiene**



**ethylene oxide**



**Fig. 1.2 Proportion of adult smokers by WHO region in 2009**

From [WHO \(2011\)](#)

## 1.3 Prevalence of tobacco smoking

### 1.3.1 Data collection and methods

Data on smoking tobacco are available from WHO's Global Infobase ([www.who.int/infobase](http://www.who.int/infobase)) and the WHO Global Health Observatory ([www.who.int/gho/en](http://www.who.int/gho/en)) – repositories of information on tobacco use and other risk factors in young people (13–15 years old) and adults (aged 15 years and over). The data span several years and are acquired from government reports, journals and unpublished sources. WHO has in the recent past used and modelled these data to produce estimates of tobacco smoking prevalence, published in the WHO Reports on the Global Tobacco Epidemic. For a complete explanation of methods used, the reader is referred to the Technical Note on Prevalence in the 3<sup>rd</sup> WHO Report on the Global Tobacco Epidemic ([WHO, 2011](http://www.who.int/2011)). The six WHO regions are: EMRO, Eastern Mediterranean Region; EURO, European

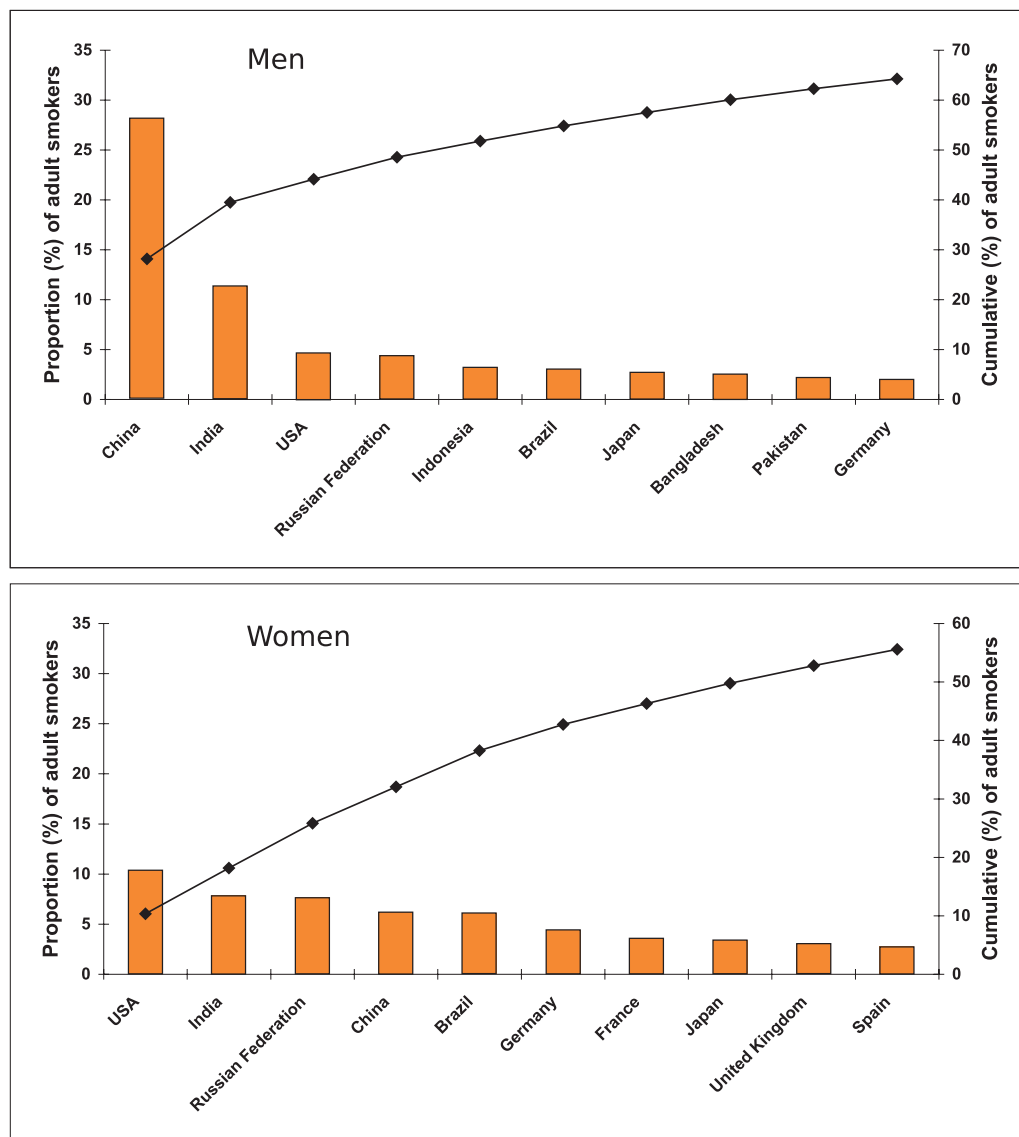
Region; AFRO, African Region; WPRO, Western Pacific Region; SEARO, South East Asian Region; AMRO, Region of the Americas. A listing of the countries in each region can be viewed at <http://www.who.int/about/structure/en/index.html>.

### 1.3.2 Distribution of smokers by WHO region and country

WHO estimates that in 2009, there was about 1.1 billion adult smokers worldwide, representing nearly a quarter (22%) of the global adult population ([WHO, 2011](#)). A disaggregation by the six WHO regions (Fig. 1.2) shows that over a third of smokers worldwide live in WPRO (highly influenced by the People's Republic of China), followed by SEARO, which has around a fifth of the world's smokers (influenced by India and Indonesia).

The number of smokers in any country is a function of both the prevalence of smoking and the size of the population. A further

**Fig. 1.3 Proportion and cumulative percentage of smokers in high-burden countries, in men (A) and women (B) in 2009**



From [WHO \(2011\)](#)

disaggregation of the regions by country shows that a few countries account for a large proportion of tobacco smokers. Ranked in descending order of the number of smokers, the five countries of China, India, United States of America (USA), Russian Federation and Indonesia account for about 52% of adult smokers in the world, with China and India alone accounting for 40% (Fig. 1.3). Furthermore, nearly two-thirds of the

world's smokers live in only ten countries of the world.

### 1.3.3 Distribution of smokers by sex

With a global average smoking prevalence of 36%, men account for just over 80% of all smokers. The male adult prevalence is 4–5 times that for women, at 8%. This difference varies across WHO

regions. Smoking among men, concentrated in the five countries of China, India, Indonesia, Russian Federation and USA (Fig. 1.3), accounts for about 56% of global smoking among men. Women smokers are mostly concentrated in EURO and AMRO. These two regions account for 40% and 26% of all women smokers globally, respectively. The prevalences for women in these two regions are about half of those in men, whereas the difference is substantially greater in the other regions. Just as men smoke more than women everywhere, so too among young people, boys generally smoke more than girls. There is an increasing concern, however, that the gap may diminish, not because of a reduction in boys prevalence but because of an increase in the proportion of girls who are taking up smoking ([Warren et al., 2006](#)).

### 1.3.4 The four stage smoking model

#### (a) The four stages of tobacco use

[Lopez et al. \(1994\)](#) used trend data on smoking prevalence and tobacco attributable mortality to show the evolution of tobacco use in a country. Four stages of smoking and attributable mortality have been identified to represent the growth and eventual decline of smoking among men and women (Fig. 1.4).

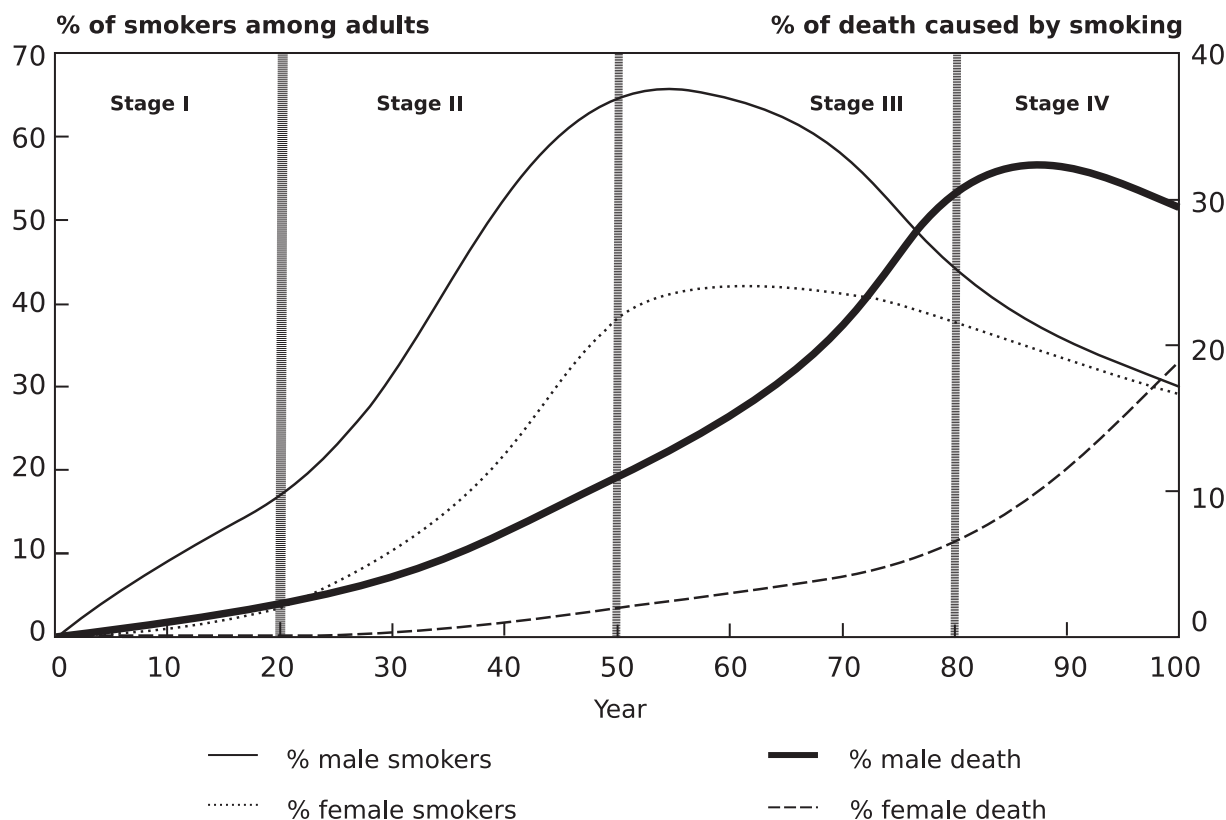
Stage 1 is characterized by low smoking prevalence in men (less than 15%) and very low in women (less than 10%). Death and disease from smoking are not apparent in this phase, as nearly all health effects from smoking are related to past smoking habits and their cumulative effects rather than current smoking. In Stage 2, smoking prevalence in men rapidly increases while it increases more slowly in women. Towards the end of this stage, smoking prevalence in men typically peaks to lie at 50–60%, with 10% of deaths in men attributable to smoking; deaths in women are comparatively fewer. After a protracted period of high smoking prevalence, Stage 3 shows a decline in smoking prevalence in men to around 40%.

Smoking prevalence in women peaks and then begins to decline; towards the end of this stage the gap between men's and women's prevalence starts to narrow. However, smoking attributable deaths in men increase from around 10% to 25–30% within a span of three decades; in women the deaths are increasing but are still quite low. In the final Stage 4, smoking prevalences in both men and women continue to decline albeit relatively slowly in comparison with Stage 3, with the gap substantially narrowing to lie at around five percentage points, and as little as one percentage point in some countries. In Stage 4, smoking mortality in men peaks to between 30–35% and then declines to below 30% at the end of this period. In women, the health effects from past smoking persist, with increasing mortality, but remain lower than in men, and recently have begun to decline in some countries.

#### (b) Smoking prevalence worldwide

Using prevalence data for men and women collected in 2006 for 140 countries, WHO determined at which stage of the tobacco epidemic countries are in the model of [Lopez et al. \(1994\)](#). In Fig. 1.5, countries have been ranked by smoking prevalence in men in ascending order for Stages 1 and 2, and then in descending order for Stages 3 and 4. (Smoking prevalence in men is almost always higher than in women, with a few exceptions observed in the fourth stage.) While most countries fit the classification, there are a few exceptions, most of which in the last stage. Prevalence between Stage 3 and Stage 4 is discontinuous in both sexes. This is due to the classification followed, which puts countries with a relatively narrow difference in prevalence between men and women in Stage 4 even though their prevalence is largely comparable with those in Stage 3.

Most African countries fall in the first stage of the smoking model, characterized by low smoking prevalence in men and very low prevalence in women. Three of the five high burden

**Fig. 1.4 The four stages of the tobacco epidemic**

From [Lopez et al. \(1994\)](#)

countries fall in stage 2 (India, Indonesia and China), with the rest comprising a combination of countries from Africa, South East Asia, eastern Europe and the Middle East. At this stage smoking prevalences in women continue to remain very low, most countries having a prevalence in adult women of less than 10%.

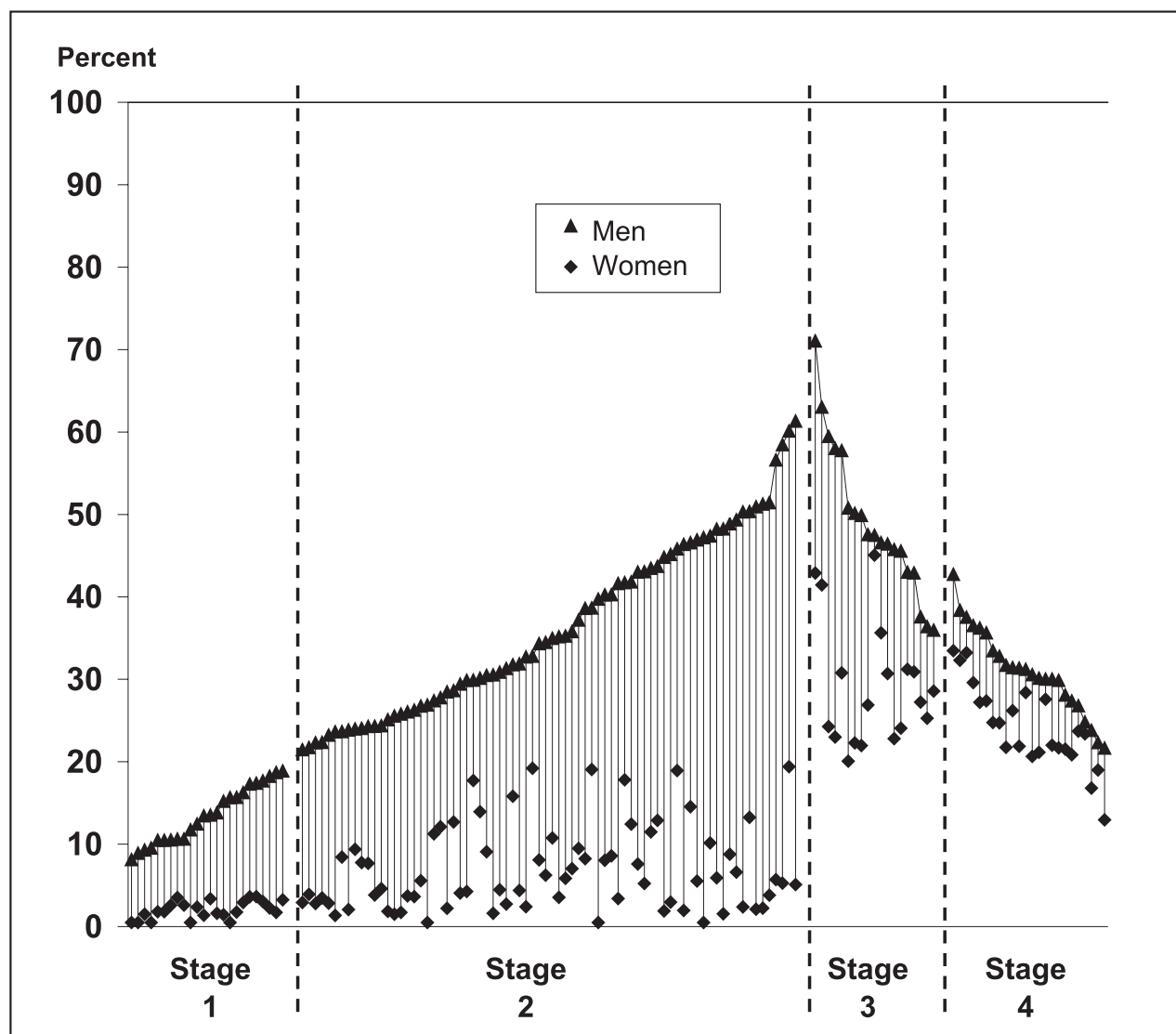
Stage 3 includes the fourth high burden country (Russian Federation), along with countries in eastern Europe, South America and western Europe, which fall at the end of Stage 3. Stage 4 is populated entirely by the developed countries of western Europe, North America and Oceania. The USA, the fifth high burden country, fall in the last stage as a result of the relatively small difference in the smoking prevalence between men and women compared to the

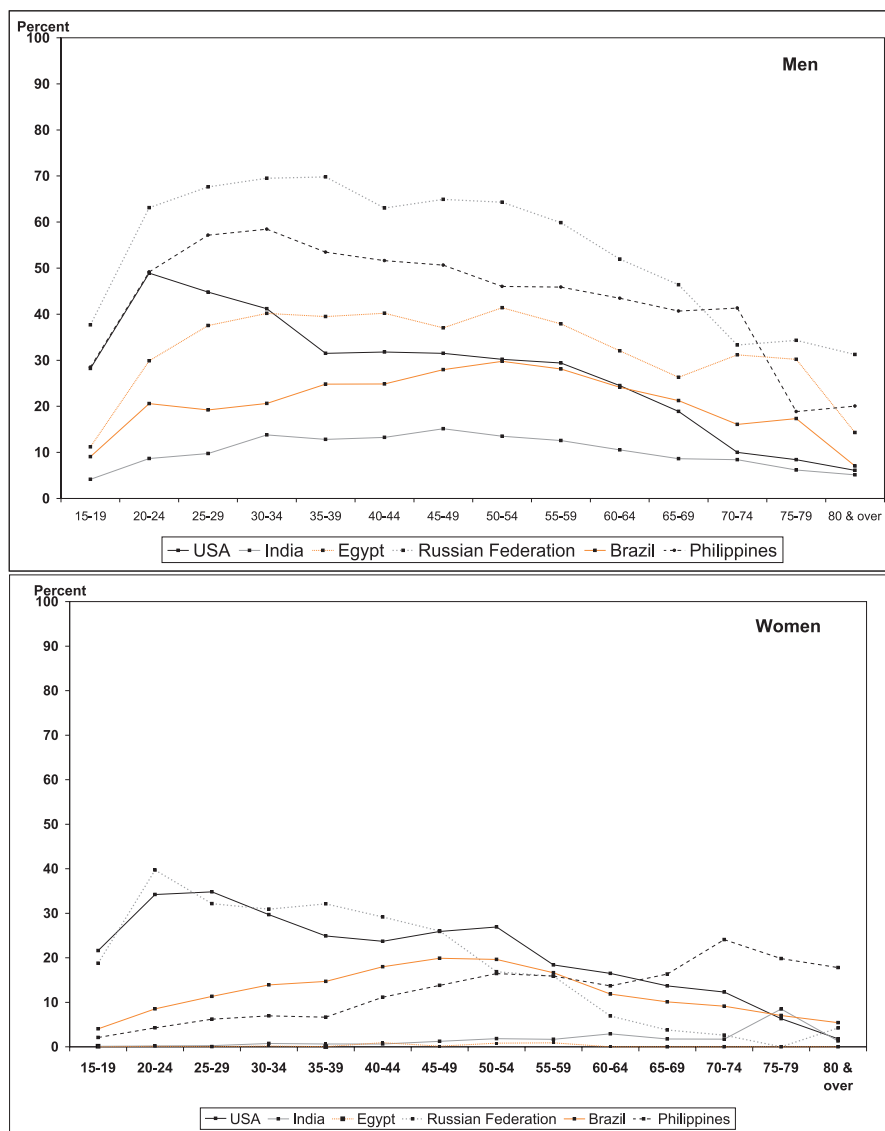
other intermediate stages. As mentioned before, Stage 4 includes countries where the smoking prevalence is higher in women than in men, with a small (< 8%) difference.

### (c) Age-specific prevalence

Age-specific prevalence for men and women aged 15 years or older is presented for six representative countries for current smoking (Fig. 1.6). There are wide variations in age-specific prevalence between these countries. In men, prevalence varies from less than 10% to 75% in the 15–19 years age range to lie between 10% and 55% in the oldest age range. Prevalence among women varies from less than 1% to as high as 45% in young adults (15–19 years). Unlike men, prevalence in women tends to converge after age

Fig. 1.5 Prevalence of smoking in 140 countries in 2009, staged according to the model by Lopez



**Fig. 1.6 Age-specific rates of smoking prevalence, in men and women in 2009**

50, lying within 15 percentage points. Prevalence in women is almost always lower than in men in all age groups.

Initiation of smoking is shifting, and is taking place at earlier ages in both developed and developing countries. In developed countries, quitting smoking is also shifting to occur at a younger age, whereas in developing countries there is no such evidence.

#### (d) *Smoking in youth*

Information on smoking habits in youth are collected from a variety of youth surveys that include the Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS), Global school-based Student Health Survey (GSHS) and Health Behaviour in School Aged Children (HBSC). Some countries have their own youth surveys, or have them as part of a general health or household survey, such as the Student Survey in Argentina, the Youth Smoking Survey in Canada, and New Zealand's Tobacco Survey.

The GYTS is a school-based survey designed to monitor tobacco use among youths aged 13 to 15 years. The GYTS uses a standard set of questions and sampling methods in over 160 countries. The survey has core questions that span seven thematic areas pertinent to tobacco. In addition to these, countries can include country-specific questions that allow assessment of tobacco use unique to the country. To assess prevalence of smoking, students are asked to report their smoking habits for both cigarettes and other tobacco products that they may have consumed over the past 30 days. Since its inception in 1999, the GYTS has covered over 2 million students. Although most GYTS are national surveys, in some countries they are limited to subnational locations. Further, countries conduct the GYTS in different years, rendering comparison for the same year difficult.

Prevalence of current tobacco use [including smokeless tobacco] in youth in 2004–09 for fourteen high burden low and middle income

countries is shown in Fig. 1.7. The Russian Federation has the highest prevalence of current tobacco use among the high burden countries for which national data are available. Further, in the Americas and Europe the difference in prevalence between boys and girls is smaller than in other regions. In contrast, in Egypt, India and Thailand, prevalences in boys are significantly higher than in girls.

Fig. 1.8 shows the range of current tobacco use by WHO region for boys and for girls and for both sexes combined. There are wide variations in current tobacco use within each region. The largest variations are observed in EMRO and SEARO irrespective of sex, reflecting potentially disparate initiation rates in countries within the region. In AFRO, the range of current tobacco use between boys and girls is virtually the same. In some countries (e.g. Argentina, Peru, Sierra Leone, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cook Islands, New Zealand), tobacco use in girls exceeds that in boys; but overall boys and girls show remarkably similar propensity to take up tobacco use.

[Warren \*et al.\* \(2006\)](#) present global estimates and regional averages for current tobacco smoking in youth using GYTS data spanning 1999–2005. Their estimates show that one in five boys and one in seven girls currently smoke tobacco. Prevalence of current smoking for both boys and girls combined was highest in AMRO (22.2%) and lowest in WPRO (11.4%). AMRO have the highest average for current tobacco smoking for boys (24%) and for girls (20.4%) whereas the lowest prevalence was in WPRO among boys (15%) and in SEARO among girls (7.1%).

## 1.4 Regulations and policies: the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control

The WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC) – the first multi-lateral evidence-based treaty on tobacco control

Fig. 1.7 Prevalence of current tobacco use in youth for selected countries, 2005–2009

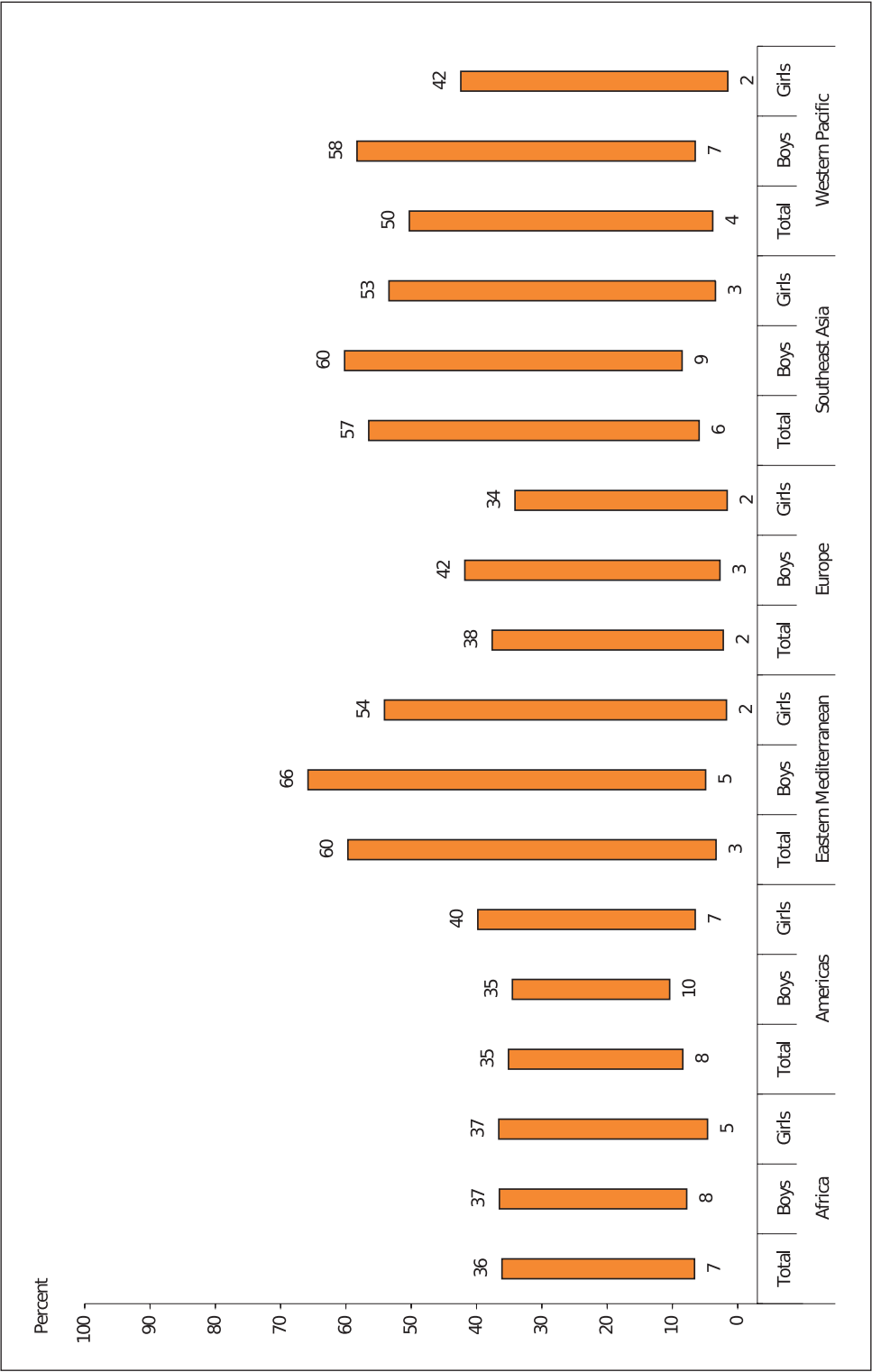
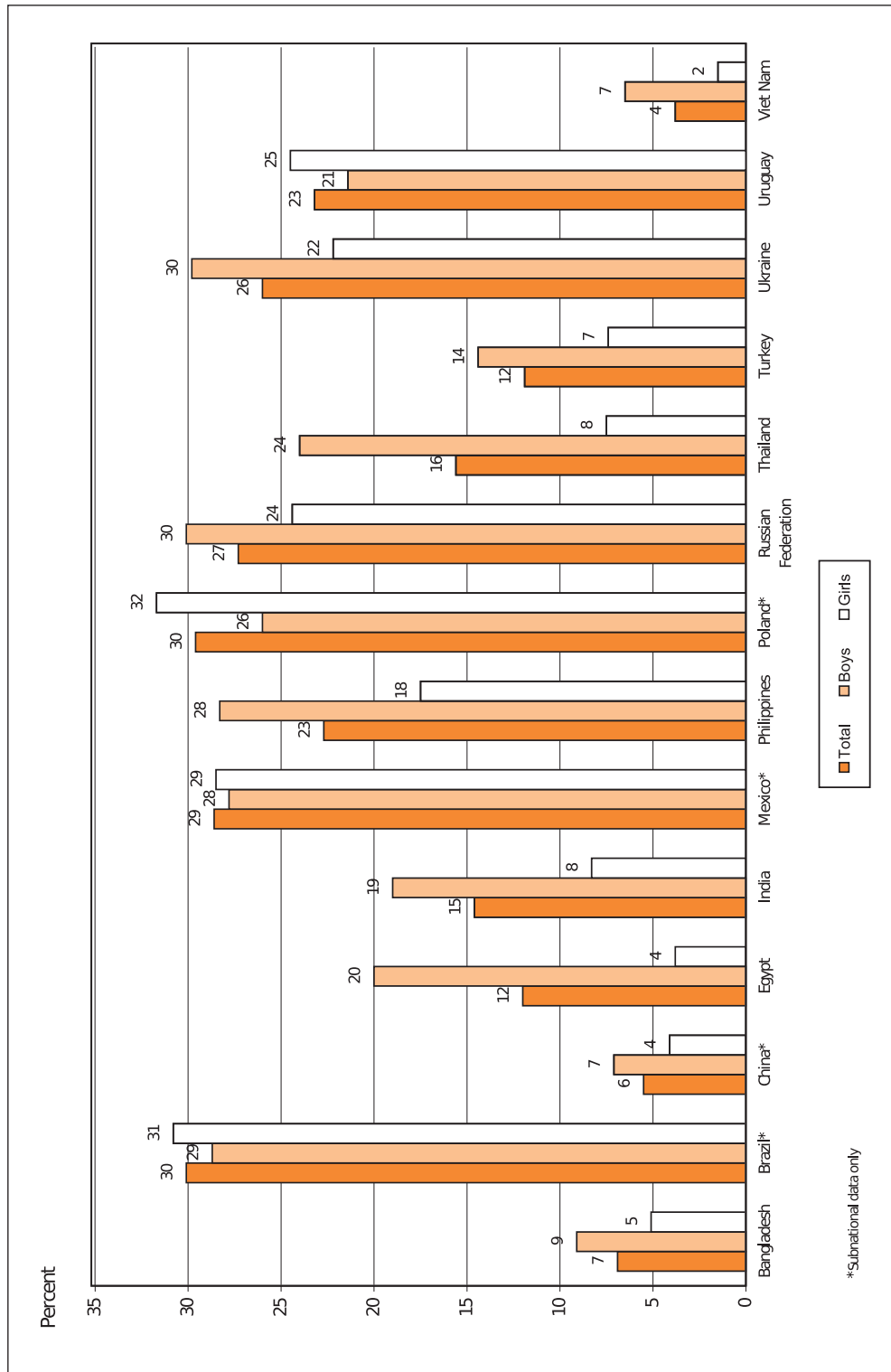




Fig. 1.8 Range of prevalence of current tobacco use in youth, 2005–2009, by WHO region



Figures have been rounded off and show prevalences in countries with national and subnational jurisdiction.

– articulates tobacco control measures available to countries to counter the growing tobacco epidemic. This treaty, which entered into force in 2005, represents one of the most universal treaties in the United Nations history. In 2008, the WHO launched MPOWER, a technical assistance package comprised of six strategies that reflects one or more of the WHO FCTC measures and helps countries meet their commitments to the WHO FCTC.

## 2. Cancer in Humans

### 2.1 Introduction

The available knowledge on the relationship between tobacco smoking and a variety of human cancers is based primarily on epidemiological evidence. An immense amount of such evidence has been obtained, and only a small proportion can be referred to here. The cancers considered to be causally related to tobacco smoking in the previous *IARC Monograph* on tobacco smoking ([IARC, 2004a](#)) included lung, oral cavity, nasal cavity and paranasal sinuses, nasopharynx, oropharynx, hypopharynx, larynx, oesophagus (adenocarcinoma and squamous cell carcinoma), upper aerodigestive tract combined, stomach, pancreas, liver, kidney (body and pelvis), ureter, urinary bladder, cervix and myeloid leukaemia. In addition, it was concluded that there was evidence suggesting lack of carcinogenicity for cancers of the breast and of the endometrium.

Since 2002, there have been additional cohort and case-control studies on the relationship of tobacco smoking in different forms to these and other cancers in many countries. A large body of evidence has been obtained from cohort studies with respect to different cancer sites and types of tobacco product. These cohort studies are described briefly in Table 2.1 (available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-01-Table2.1.pdf>), listed by country.

Case-control studies are described in the sections pertaining to cancer sites. More studies are now available from countries and populations that are still at an early stage of the tobacco epidemic. These studies are prone to underestimate the true strengths of the association between tobacco smoking and any specific cancer as the full effect of duration of smoking cannot be evaluated.

## 2.2 Cancer of the lung

### 2.2.1 Overview of studies

The main cause of lung cancer in humans is tobacco smoking and most information establishing this fact comes from epidemiological studies in which the assessment of exposure was based on self-reported information on personal smoking habits via self-administered questionnaire or in-person interviews. Since the previous *IARC Monograph* ([IARC, 2004a](#)), numerous studies have been published on the issues of tobacco smoking and sex and racial/ethnic susceptibility, ‘tar’ yields as measured by machine smoking, the relationship between histological changes and the design of cigarettes, dose-response association, genetic susceptibilities and interactions.

### 2.2.2 Factors affecting risk

Recent epidemiological studies incorporating measures of smoking metabolites in serum or urine are helping to refine our understanding of exposure-response relationships with tobacco smoke. Dose-response evidence has been obtained from three cohort studies ([Flanders et al., 2003](#); [Boffetta et al., 2006](#); [Yuan et al., 2009](#); Table 2.2 available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-01-Table2.2.pdf>) and four pooled analyses ([Lubin & Caporaso, 2006](#); [Lubin et al., 2007a, b, 2008](#); Table 2.3 available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-01-Table2.3.pdf>)

since the previous *IARC Monograph* ([IARC, 2004a](#)).

The US American Cancer Society Cancer Prevention Study-II (CPS-II) is the largest cohort study on smoking and lung cancer risk using questionnaire assessment of exposure ([Flanders et al., 2003](#)). In this study cigarette smoking duration is a much stronger predictor of lung cancer mortality than is cigarette smoking intensity, regardless of age in both men and women. These results are qualitatively similar to those reported by [Doll & Peto \(1978\)](#) and are consistent with [IARC \(2004a\)](#).

In a questionnaire-based assessment of the association of tobacco smoking with lung cancer risk, smokers at higher smoking intensities seem to experience a “reduced potency” per pack such that for equal total exposure, the excess odds ratio per pack-year decreases with intensity ([Lubin et al. 2008](#)). Below 15–20 cigarettes/day, the excess odds ratio/pack-year increases with intensity ([Lubin & Caporaso, 2006](#); [Lubin et al., 2007a](#)) while above 20 cigarettes/day, there is an ‘inverse-exposure-rate’ effect ([Lubin et al., 2007a](#)) suggesting a greater risk for total exposure delivered at lower intensity (or a longer duration) than the equivalent exposure delivered at a higher intensity. The intensity effects were also statistically homogeneous across diverse cancer types, indicating that after accounting for risk from total pack-years, intensity patterns were comparable for cancer of the lung, bladder, oral cavity, pancreas and oesophagus. These analyses suggest that the risk of lung cancer increases with increasing tobacco exposure at all dose levels, but there is some levelling-off effect at the highest intensity of tobacco smoking.

However, when serum cotinine was used as a measure of exposure to tobacco smoking, rather than questionnaire-based data, the odds ratio of lung cancer increased linearly over the full range of exposure from  $\leq 5$  ng/mL through  $\geq 378$  ng/mL, with an odds ratio of 55.1 (95% confidence interval (CI): 35.7–85.0) in the

highest exposure group. These results suggest that the decreased rate of lung cancer risk at high intensity of tobacco smoke previously described is a statistical artefact. Such an effect may be due to an inaccurate assessment of total tobacco smoke exposure from questionnaire-based studies at high exposure levels ([Boffetta et al., 2006](#)). Somewhat similar results were obtained when both 4-(methylnitrosamino)-1-(3-pyridyl)-1-butanol (NNAL) and total cotinine in urine were measured in subjects of two large cohort studies from Shanghai men and Singapore men and women ([Yuan et al., 2009](#)). Among smokers with comparable smoking histories (as noted in questionnaire data) there is a 9-fold variation in subsequent risk of lung cancer between those with high and those with low levels of total urinary NNAL and cotinine. Thus measurements of urinary cotinine and total NNAL at a single point in time in a smoker could substantially improve the predictive power of a lung cancer assessment model based solely on self-reported smoking history (number of cigarettes/day, number of years of regular smoking). A positive NNAL-lung cancer association of comparable magnitude was observed in both Shanghai and Singapore subjects despite differences in the NNK content of tobacco smoked. The independent association between total urinary cotinine and lung cancer risk, after adjustment for total urinary NNAL and smoking history, suggests that tobacco smoke compounds other than NNK play a role in lung cancer development in smokers. Further, a single measurement of urinary NNAL may closely predict the average level of NNAL measured over a much longer period of time.

### 2.2.3 Types of tobacco or of cigarette

#### (a) Tar levels

In a previous *IARC Monograph* ([IARC, 1986](#)), it was concluded on the basis of the case-control, cohort studies and ecological evaluations

available at the time that prolonged use of ‘high-tar’ and unfiltered cigarettes is associated with greater risks than prolonged use of filter-tipped and ‘low-tar’ cigarettes. More recently ([IARC, 2004a](#)), it has been recognized that the actual quantitative impact of reduced ‘tar’ and filter-tipped cigarettes is difficult to assess because of, respectively, the concomitant increase in tobacco-specific nitrosamines that accompanies the greater use of blend tobacco and the compensatory changes in smoking behaviour by smokers attempting to maintain their accustomed level of nicotine intake. Nevertheless, it was concluded that changes in cigarette types since the 1950s have probably tended to reduce the risk for lung cancer associated with tobacco smoking.

Additional refinement in assessing the health effects associated with smoking cigarettes of various tar content has been possible since the publication of the earlier reports. Compared with smokers of medium tar (15–21 mg) filtered cigarettes risk was higher among men and women who smoked high tar ( $\geq 22$  mg) non-filtered brands but there was no difference in risk among men and women who smoked ‘very low tar’ or ‘low tar’ brands compared with those who smoked ‘medium tar’ brands ([Harris et al., 2004](#)). Regardless of tar content of their cigarettes, all current smokers had a far greater risk for lung cancer than people who had stopped smoking or had never smoked ([Harris et al., 2004](#)).

#### (b) *Mentholated cigarettes*

In the previous *IARC Monograph* ([IARC, 2004a](#)) the conclusion was drawn that there is no additional risk associated with smoking mentholated cigarettes when total consumption (pack-years) was controlled versus non-mentholated ones. Recent evidence supports that conclusion.

Mentholated cigarettes first appeared in the 1920s, but were not widely used until the mid-1950s ([Bogen, 1929](#); [Federal Trade Commission, 2001](#)). Since the early 1970s, menthol varieties have accounted for 25–60% of all cigarettes

sold in the USA ([Federal Trade Commission, 2001](#)). There are strong ethnic differences in the use of menthol cigarettes; more than 60% of Black smokers of both sexes use menthol brands compared to fewer than 25% of White smokers ([Royce et al., 1993](#); [Hymowitz et al., 1995](#)). Studies have generally not demonstrated an increased risk of lung cancer for mentholated cigarettes versus non-mentholated cigarettes ([Kabat & Hebert, 1994](#); [Carpenter et al., 1999](#); [Brooks et al., 2003](#); [Stellman et al., 2003](#)). Recent evidence also suggests that users of mentholated cigarettes smoke fewer pack-years than those of non-mentholated cigarettes.

The higher incidence of lung cancer among Blacks is an important public health concern but the causes remain unclear. Mentholated cigarette use does not appear to explain the racial disparity observed in lung cancer risk among those having the same total tobacco consumption.

#### 2.2.4 *Histology*

Compiled databases from IARC and other sources indicated that squamous cell carcinoma rates [per 100000 person-years] among men declined by 30% or more in North America and some European countries between 1980–82 and 1995–97, while changing less dramatically in other areas; small cell carcinoma rates decreased less rapidly. In contrast, the proportion of adenocarcinoma cases rose among men and women in virtually all areas, with the increases among men exceeding 50% in many areas of Europe ([Devesa et al., 2005](#)).

Based on a comparison of two large cohort studies initiated by the American Cancer Society (ACS) (CPS-I and CPS-II) in 1960 and 1980, respectively, a stronger association between smoking and adenocarcinoma was observed in recent compared to earlier follow-up periods ([Thun & Heath, 1997](#)). Additionally, an association between cigarette smoking and bronchioloalveolar carcinoma was also found in several

studies ([Falk et al., 1992](#); [Morabia & Wynder, 1992](#)).

A meta-analysis of 8 cohort and 14 case-control studies conducted in Japan among active smokers indicated significant excess lung cancer risks among men for both squamous cell carcinoma (relative risk (RR), 11.7) and adenocarcinoma (RR, 2.30). Among women the risks were 11.3 for squamous cell carcinoma and 1.37 for adenocarcinoma ([Wakai et al., 2006](#)).

### 2.2.5 Population characteristics

#### (a) Sex

Meta-analyses on sex-specific susceptibility to lung cancer associated with tobacco smoking are presented in Table 2.4 (available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-01-Table2.4.pdf>) and cohort studies in Table 2.5 (available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-01-Table2.5.pdf>).

In the 1990s, two case-control studies indicated that relative risks for lung cancer associated with specific amounts and duration of cigarette smoking may be higher among women than among men ([Risch et al., 1993](#); [Zang & Wynder, 1996](#)).

In the large NIH-AARP [National Institutes of Health-American Association of Retired People] cohort ([Freedman et al., 2008](#)), smoking was associated with lung cancer risk in both men and women. Age-standardized incidence rates for lung cancer tended to be higher in men than in women with comparable smoking histories (for current smokers and for quitters of less than 10 years), and in cases with squamous cell tumours. However, lung cancer risk was generally similar between men and women.

In a joint analysis, results from the Nurses' Health Study of women and the Health Professionals Follow-up Study in men ([Bain et al., 2004](#)) suggest little difference in lung cancer susceptibility between men and women given equal smoking exposure. The hazard ratio

in women ever smokers compared with men was 1.11 (95%CI: 0.95–1.31).

Serum cotinine levels were analysed in lung cancer cases and controls ([Boffetta et al., 2006](#)). The lung cancer odds ratios (ORs) estimated for men and women were very similar for those with comparable serum cotinine levels. Other studies that have carefully quantified tobacco exposure via self-administered questionnaire or interview provide additional evidence of a comparable increase in lung cancer risk in the two sexes ([Kreuzer et al., 2000](#); [Flanders et al., 2003](#); [Bain et al., 2004](#)).

In a meta-analysis of observational studies on cigarette smoking and cancer from 1961–2003 (conducted on 177 case-control studies, 75 cohort studies and two nested case-control studies), dose-response estimates were available in 44 studies: 19 with estimates for men only, 11 with estimates for women only and 14 with separate estimates for men and women ([Gandini et al., 2008](#)). Overall, the risk of lung cancer for men and women increased by 7% for each additional cigarette smoked per day (RR, 1.07; 95%CI: 1.06–1.08). The increased risk appears to be slightly higher in women (RR, 1.08; 95%CI: 1.07–1.10) than in men (RR, 1.07; 95%CI: 1.05–1.08) ( $P < 0.001$ ; adjusting for study type).

#### (b) Ethnicity

It has been postulated that susceptibility to lung cancer from tobacco smoking may differ by race and ethnicity ([Schwartz & Swanson, 1997](#); [Peto et al., 1999](#); [Stellman et al., 2001](#); [Kiyohara et al., 2004, 2005, 2006](#); [Pinsky, 2006](#); [Wakai et al., 2006](#); [Vineis et al., 2007](#); [Takahashi et al., 2008](#); Table 2.6 available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-01-Table2.6.pdf>). Lung cancer incidence rates vary considerable across racial/ethnic groups in the USA and elsewhere. Black men have higher rates than white men, while Hispanics, Asians and American Indians of both sexes have lower rates than whites ([Stellman et al., 2003](#); [SEER, 2004](#)).



Nutritional habits, smoking patterns, type of tobacco smoked and genetic factors may play a role in such differences between racial and ethnic groups.

The association of tobacco smoking and lung cancer does not appear to be as strong among Japanese as among populations of North America or Europe ([Wakai et al., 2006](#)). In a meta-analysis of 8 cohort studies and 14 case-control studies conducted in Japan, the excess lung cancer risks observed for both men (RR, 4.39; 95%CI: 3.92–4.92) and women (RR, 2.79; 95%CI: 2.44–3.20) in both case-control and cohort studies were lower than would have been expected from studies in North America and Europe. The lower lifetime consumption of cigarettes in Japanese, due in part to a later initiation of smoking and a lower consumption per day has been suggested to explain this. Other differences that may have etiological significance include tobacco ingredients, different filters on cigarettes, lifestyle factors including diet, and possibly differences in genetic susceptibility. [The Working Group noted that North American or European populations were not directly included in any of these studies.]

Data from the Asian Pacific Cohort Studies Collaboration, 31 studies involving 480125 persons, evaluated the risk of death from lung cancer associated with smoking habits in Australia, New Zealand and Asia ([Huxley et al., 2007b](#)). Among Asian men the hazard ratio was 2.48 versus 9.87 in men in Australia and New Zealand. Among women, the corresponding estimates were 2.35 and 19.33, respectively. [In these studies, Asian populations smoked fewer cigarettes for a shorter period of time compared to those in Australia and New Zealand.]

Based on data from the National Cancer Institute's Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results program (SEER), Chinese women residing in the USA have a fourfold increased risk of lung cancer, and Filipino women a twofold increased risk, compared to that expected based on rates in

non-Hispanic whites in the USA with a similar amount of cigarettes smoked ([Epplein et al., 2005](#)). Among Chinese women, the increased risk was largely restricted to adenocarcinoma and large cell undifferentiated carcinoma. Chinese females residents of the western US mainland have a much higher risk of lung cancer than would be expected from their tobacco use patterns, just as they do in Asia ([Peto et al., 1999](#); [Epplein et al., 2005](#)), the reason for these difference have not been identified. [Controlling for potential confounding factors was limited using aggregate data from SEER.]

Age, sex and race-specific risks of lung cancer mortality among lifetime non-smokers were compared in the two large ACS Cancer Prevention Study cohorts (CPS-I; CPS-II). The mortality rate was higher among African American women than among white women in CPS-II (hazard ratio (HR), 1.43; 95%CI: 1.11–1.36) ([Thun et al., 2006](#)). This suggests an inherent susceptibility difference between white and black women but it could also be explained by access to care, diet, or exposure to environmental carcinogens.

The risk for lung cancer associated with cigarette smoking in 183813 African-American, Japanese-American, Latino, native Hawaiian and white men and women was examined in the Multiethnic Cohort Study in the USA ([Haiman et al., 2006](#)). Information on demographic factors, smoking status, cigarettes/day smoked, years of smoking, years since quitting, diet, occupations, educational level and racial and ethnic group were collected for all subjects through a self-administered questionnaire at enrolment. Information about age of smoking initiation and cessation rates were collected on a subgroup of 5090 study subjects. Incident lung cancer cases were identified by linkage to the SEER cancer registries covering California and Hawaii. Among those who smoked no more than 10 cigarettes/day and those who smoked 11–20 cigarettes/day, relative risks ranged from 0.21 to 0.39 ( $P < 0.001$ ) among Japanese Americans and Latinos and from 0.45

to 0.57 ( $P < 0.001$ ) among whites as compared with African Americans. However, at levels exceeding 30 cigarettes/day, differences between racial/ethnic groups were no longer significant. The differences in lung cancer risk by racial group associated with smoking were observed for both men and women and for all histological types of lung cancer. These findings could not be explained by differences between populations in other known or suspected risk factors, including diet, occupation, and education level or by age at starting smoking or cessation of smoking.

Polymorphisms in glutathione-S-transferase (GST), GSTM1, GSTT1 and GSTP1 genes in humans are associated with reduction of enzymatic activity towards several substrates, including those found in tobacco smoke. In a population based case-control study involving early-onset lung cancer, African Americans carrying at least one G allele at the GSTP1 locus were more likely to have lung cancer compared with African Americans without a G allele after adjustment for age, sex, pack-years of smoking and a history of lung cancer in a first degree relative (OR, 2.9; 95%CI: 1.29–6.20). African Americans with either one or two risk genotypes at the GSTM1 (i.e. null genotype) and GSTP1 loci were at increased risk of having lung cancer compared with those having fully functional GSTM1 and GSTP1 genes (one risk genotype: OR, 2.8; 95%CI: 1.1–7.2 and two risk genotypes: OR, 4.0; 95%CI: 1.3–12.2). No significant single gene associations between GSTM1, GSTT1 and GSTP1 and early-onset lung cancer were observed in Caucasians, after adjusting for age, sex, pack-years and a family history of lung cancer ([Cote et al., 2005](#)).

The cytochrome P450 (CYP) superfamily of enzymes catalyses one of the first steps in the metabolism of carcinogens such as polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, nitroaromatics and arylamines. A population-based case-control study of lung cancer in the metropolitan Detroit area found that neither CYP1A1 MspI nor CYP1A1

Ile<sup>462</sup>Val was associated with lung cancer susceptibility among Caucasians or African Americans. Among Caucasians, however, CYP1B1 Leu<sup>432</sup> Val was significantly associated with lung cancer susceptibility (OR for at least one Val allele, 2.87; 95%CI: 1.63–5.07). Individuals with both this polymorphism and exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke were at particularly high risk for lung cancer. Combinations of particular CYP1B1 polymorphisms appeared to increase risk, although no combination differed significantly from the risk associated with CYP1B1 Leu<sup>432</sup> Val alone ([Cote et al., 2005](#); [Wenzlaff et al., 2005](#)).

The hypothesis that polymorphisms in TP53 may modulate the risk for lung cancer associated with tobacco smoke was evaluated in a case-control study of lung cancer in Baltimore, Maryland. African-Americans with Pro-T-A-G-G haplotype (combining the polymorphisms TP53\_01 (rs1042522), TP53\_65 (rs9895829), TP53\_66 (rs2909430), TP53\_16 (rs1625895), and TP\_11 (rs12951053)) had both an increased risk for lung cancer (HR, 2.32; 95%CI: 1.38–4.10) and a worsened lung cancer prognosis (HR, 2.38; 95%CI: 0.38–4.10) compared with those having the Arg-T-A-G-T haplotype. No association of TP53 polymorphisms with lung cancer was observed in Caucasians ([Mechanic et al., 2007](#)). Common genetic variation in TP53 could modulate lung cancer pathways in African Americans. Differences in lung cancer susceptibility may exist based on race, tobacco exposure and selected genetic polymorphisms ([Mechanic et al., 2007](#)).

## 2.2.6 Interactions

### (a) Diet and exercise

Antioxidant vitamins, carotenoids, isothiocyanates, total dietary vegetables and fruit, and physical exercise have been associated with a decreased risk for cancer in some studies but the overall protective effect of diet and exercise account for only a small fraction of the total risk associated with tobacco smoking.

The association of fruit and vegetable with lung cancer incidence among both smokers and non-smokers was evaluated in the European Prospective Investigation into Cancer and Nutrition (EPIC). In current smokers lung cancer risk was significantly decreased with higher vegetable consumption, the hazard ratio being 0.78 (95%CI: 0.62–0.98) per 100 g increase in daily vegetable consumption, and 0.90 (95%CI: 0.81–0.99) per 100 g fruit ([Linseisen et al., 2007](#)). While overall consumption of fruits and vegetables was not found to be protective of lung cancer in the NIH-AARP Diet and Health Study, higher consumption of several botanical subgroups (i.e. rosaceae, convolvulaceae, and umbelliferae) was significantly inversely associated with risk, but only in men ([Wright et al., 2008](#)).

Cruciferous vegetables (i.e. broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, Brussels sprouts, kale) are rich in isothiocyanates and have been hypothesized to have anticancer properties that may contribute to reduced risk for lung cancer. Isothiocyanates may inhibit the bioactivation of procarcinogens found in tobacco smoke such as polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons and 4-(methylnitrosamino)-1-(3-pyridyl)-1-butanone ([Hecht, 2000](#)). Isothiocyanates may also enhance excretion of carcinogenic metabolites before they can damage DNA ([Gasper et al., 2005](#)). Furthermore, sulforaphane, a major isothiocyanate found in broccoli, can induce cell cycle arrest and apoptosis ([Seow et al., 2005](#)). GSTM1 and GSTT1 encode isoenzymes that play an important role in xenobiotic metabolism ([Hecht, 2000](#)). Individuals with homozygous deletion of GSTM1 and GSTT1, or both may metabolize isothiocyanates less efficiently and may be more intensely exposed to isothiocyanates after consumption of cruciferous vegetables. Epidemiological evidence from 30 studies on the association between lung cancer and either total cruciferous vegetable consumption (6 cohort and 12 case–control studies) or specific cruciferous vegetables (1 cohort and 11 case–control studies) was recently evaluated

([Lam et al., 2009](#)). The risk for lung cancer among those in the highest category of total cruciferous vegetable intake was 22% lower in case–control studies (pooled OR, 0.78; 95%CI: 0.70–0.88) and 17% lower in cohort studies (pooled RR, 0.83; 95%CI: 0.62–1.08). The strongest inverse association of total cruciferous vegetable intake with lung cancer was seen among individuals with GSTM1 and GSTT1 double null genotypes (OR, 0.41; 95%CI: 0.26–0.65; *p* for interaction = 0.01). The inverse association was observed in both smokers and non-smokers.

The potential role of vitamin A in the development of lung cancer attracted early research interest ([Bjelke, 1975](#)). Carotenoids were thought to have anti-cancer properties and early evidence from case–control studies tended to support an inverse association of lung cancer incidence with  $\beta$ -carotene intake and with serum concentrations of  $\beta$ -carotene. However, the case–control design is not ideal for assessing the effect of serum carotenoids as a risk factor for lung cancer risk since the disease is likely to effect serum levels. In a meta-analysis of six randomized clinical trials and 25 prospective observational studies, [Gallicchio et al. \(2008\)](#) computed a pooled relative risk for studies comparing  $\beta$ -carotene supplements with placebo of 1.10 (95%CI: 0.89–1.36). Among observational studies, the pooled relative risk for total carotenoid dietary intake from six studies was 0.86 (95%CI: 0.75–0.99) among current smokers. For dietary intake of  $\beta$ -cryptoxanthin, data from six studies gave a pooled relative risk among smokers of 0.75 (95%CI: 0.58–0.96). No other carotenoids significantly reduced the risk in current, former or never smokers.

Based on a review of the literature, antioxidant vitamins show no clear protective effect on lung cancer risk in smokers or non-smokers, although there was some, albeit inconsistent, evidence pointing to a protective role for vitamin C and E. No clear protective role was observed for vitamin A ([Ruano-Ravina et al., 2006](#)).



Increased physical activity has been associated with a reduction in the incidence and mortality from all-site cancer and some site-specific cancers in studies of non-smokers, but less is known about whether physical activity is associated with similar risk reduction in smokers. Several early studies suggested that physical activity is associated with decreased risk of lung cancer in men and women after adjusting for smoking, with risk reductions estimated from 18% (Peterson *et al.*, 2001) to 62% (Kubík *et al.*, 2001). The effect of physical activity on lung cancer risk was assessed in a sample drawn from participants in the Beta-Carotene and Retinol Efficacy Trial. The results suggested that physical activity may play a small role in reducing cancer risk and mortality among those with significant tobacco exposure. The incidence of lung cancer and of all cancer sites combined seemed to be more attenuated by exercise in men than in women, while the attenuation in lung cancer mortality was greater in women than in men. These effects may be more pronounced for younger people and may differ inconsistently by pack-years of smoking (Alfano *et al.*, 2004).

#### (b) Radon

In a pooled analysis of data from 13 case-control studies of residential radon and lung cancer from nine European countries (7148 cases of lung cancer and 14208 controls), the dose-response relation seemed to be linear with no threshold and remained significant in analyses limited to individuals from homes with measured radon < 200 Bq/m<sup>3</sup>. The absolute risks of lung cancer by age 75 years at radon concentrations of 0, 100, and 400 Bq/m<sup>3</sup> would be about 0.4%, 0.5% and 0.7%, respectively, for lifelong non-smokers, and about 25 times greater (10%, 12% and 16%) for cigarette smokers. These studies show appreciable hazards from residential radon, particularly for smokers and recent ex-smokers (Darby *et al.*, 2005). Similar risks were identified in a

pooling project of North American case-control studies (Krewski *et al.*, 2005).

#### (c) Asbestos

Exposure to asbestos and tobacco smoking are both known causes of lung cancer in humans (Doll & Peto, 1978; de Klerk *et al.*, 1996). Some studies suggest a multiplicative effect [where the effect of asbestos exposure is a multiple of the effect of smoking] (Hammond *et al.*, 1979; Doll & Peto, 1985), and meta-analyses have suggested that the additive model [where asbestos exposure and smoking are independent of each other] is unsound (Lee, 2001; Liddell, 2001). In a recent study of 2935 asbestos miners, persons exposed to asbestos and tobacco who subsequently quit smoking remained at a 90% increased risk of lung cancer up to 20 years after smoking cessation, compared to never-smoker asbestos workers (Reid *et al.*, 2006a).

#### (d) Genetic polymorphisms

Lung cancer is plausibly caused by the interplay between environmental factors and several low-risk alleles. Attempts in identifying specific single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) responsible for modulating lung cancer risk have yielded few conclusive results. Recent studies have focused on mechanistically plausible polymorphisms in genes coding for enzymes involved in the activation, detoxification and repair of chemical damage caused by tobacco smoke. Genetic association studies indicate that several inherited genetic polymorphisms may be associated with lung cancer risk, but the data from individual studies with low statistical power are conflicting. Evidence from pooled or meta-analyses, along with some individual studies, is briefly summarized below.

##### (i) Metabolic genes

Most of the 70 carcinogens in tobacco smoke are procarcinogens that must be activated by phase I enzymes and may then be deactivated by

phase II enzymes. Polymorphisms that alter the function of the genes involved in the activation or detoxification of tobacco smoke carcinogens can potentially influence an individual's risk of developing a tobacco-related cancer.

Meta and pooled analyses of 34 case-control, genotype-based studies were conducted to assess the effect of GSTT1 genotypes and smoking on lung cancer risk. No significant interaction was observed ([Raimondi et al., 2006](#)). A pooled analysis of 21 case-control studies from the International Collaborative study of Genetic Susceptibility to Environmental Carcinogens showed no evidence of increased risk for lung cancer among carriers of the GSTM1 null genotype and there was no evidence of interaction between GSTM1 genotype and either smoking status or cumulative tobacco consumption ([Benhamou et al., 2002](#)). Similarly, in another pooled analysis the summary OR indicated the slow acetylator genotype of N-acetyltransferase 2 (NAT2) detoxification enzyme was not associated with lung cancer risk among Caucasians ([Borlak & Reamon-Buettner, 2006](#)). In a pooled analysis to test the hypothesis of interaction among genetic variants in increasing the individual risk for cancer, the cumulative effect of variants in three metabolic genes, CYP1A1, GSTM1 and GSTT1 was assessed. The risk for lung cancer was increased with the combination of CYP1A1\*2B or CYP1A1\*4 alleles and the double deletion of both GSTM1 and GSTT1 up to an OR of 8.25 (95%CI: 2.29–29.77). The combination including CYP1A1\*4 among never smokers was associated with an OR of 16.19 (95%CI: 1.90–137). These estimates did not change after adjustment by the number of cigarettes smoked and duration of smoking. The results were consistent across ethnicities and were approximately the same for adenocarcinoma and squamous cell carcinoma ([Vineis et al., 2007](#)).

Microsomal epoxide hydrolase 1 (EPHX1) plays an important role in both the activation and detoxification of tobacco-derived carcinogens.

Polymorphisms at exons 3 and 4 of the EPHX1 gene have been reported to be associated with variations in EPHX1 activity. In a meta-analysis of 13 case-control studies the low-activity (variant) genotype of EPHX1 polymorphism at exon 3 was associated with decreased risk for lung cancer (OR, 0.65; 95%CI: 0.44–0.96) among whites. In white-populations, the high activity (variant) genotype of EPHX1 polymorphism at exon 4 was associated with a modest increased risk of lung cancer (OR, 1.22; 95%CI: 0.79–1.90) and the predicted low activity was associated with a modest decrease in risk (OR, 0.72; 95%CI: 0.43–1.22) ([Kiyohara et al., 2006](#)).

#### (ii) DNA repair and cell cycle pathways

Data from 14 studies of lung cancer were used in a pooled analysis focusing on 18 sequence variants in 12 DNA repair genes, including APEX1, OGG1, XRCC1, XRCC2, XRCC3, ERCC1, XPD, XPF, XPG, XPA, MGMT and TP53 ([Hung et al., 2008a](#)). None of the variants appeared to have a large effect on lung cancer risk. In a recent meta-analysis the X-ray repair cross-complementing protein group 3 (XRCC3) and the xeroderma pigmentosum group D (XPD)/excision repair cross-complementing group 2 (ERCC2) genes were evaluated ([Manuguerra et al., 2006](#)). The authors found no association between these genes and the cancer sites investigated (skin, breast and lung). A significant association was identified for XPD/ERCC2 single nucleotide polymorphisms (codons 312 and 751) and lung cancer.

#### (iii) Nicotine acetylcholine receptor genes

A series of large genome-wide association studies for lung cancer have identified susceptibility loci for lung cancer in chromosome arms 5p, 6p and 15q ([Landi et al., 2009](#)). In particular, the susceptibility locus at chromosome region 15q25 includes several genes, including three that encode nicotinic acetylcholine receptor subunits (CHRNA5, CHRNA3 and CHRNB4). Nicotinic acetylcholine receptor subunit genes

code for proteins that form receptors present in neuronal and other tissue, in particular alveolar epithelial cells, pulmonary neuroendocrine cells, and lung cancer cell lines ([Wang et al., 2001](#); [Minna, 2003](#)) and bind to nicotine and nicotine derivatives including NNN. An association of CHRNA3 and CHRNA5 variants with nicotine dependence has been reported ([Saccone et al., 2007](#); [Berrettini et al., 2008](#)). These genes may act, at least partially, upon cigarette smoking. Current smokers with one or two copies of the susceptibility variant are likely to smoke between one and two cigarettes more a day ([Spitz et al., 2008](#)). Evidence for an effect of the 15q25 locus among never smokers is conflicting, with an association found in one study in Europe ([Hung et al., 2008b](#)) and one in Asia ([Wu et al., 2009a](#)), but not in others. Whether genes in the 15q25 locus have an effect on lung cancer beyond their propensity to increase numbers of cigarettes smoked is unclear.

Three genome-wide association studies identified genetic factors that modified disease risk. The first was a genome-wide association analysis to identify genetic polymorphisms associated with lung cancer risk in 1154 lung cancer patients of European ancestry who were current or former smokers and 1137 control subjects who were frequency matched to the lung cancer patients by age, sex, race and smoking status. Two SNPs, rs105173 and rs803419, which mapped to a region of strong linkage disequilibrium within 15q25.1, were strongly associated with risk of lung cancer, with an odds ratio for rs105173 of 1.31 ( $P = 9.84 \times 10^{-6}$ ). This finding was replicated with an additional 711 case subjects and 632 control subjects from Texas ( $P = 0.00042$ ) and in 2013 case subjects and 3062 control subjects in the United Kingdom ( $P = 2.33 \times 10^{-10}$ ). The region of interest encompasses the nicotinic acetylcholine receptor subunit genes CHRNA3 and CHRNA5 (as well as CHRNB4) ([Spitz et al., 2008](#)). A second genome-wide association study conducted among 1989 lung cancer cases and

2625 controls from six central European countries confirm these results ([Hung et al., 2008a](#)). In a third genome-wide association study of 665 Icelandic, 269 Spanish and 90 Dutch lung cancer cases and 32244 controls a common variant in the nicotinic acetylcholine receptor gene cluster [chromosome region 15q24] was significantly associated with lung cancer risk (OR, 1.31; 95%CI: 0.1.19–1.44). The variant was observed to have a significant effect on the number of cigarettes smoked per day ([Thorgeirsson et al., 2008](#)). These studies have all shown a link between this variant and lung cancer risk either through a mechanism involving nicotine dependence or a direct role in downstream signalling pathways that promote carcinogens. Together these results provide compelling evidence of a locus at 15q25 and 15q24 predisposing to lung cancer.

#### (iv) *Alpha(1)-antitrypsin*

Alpha(1)-antitrypsin deficiency ( $\alpha(1)$ ATD) is one of the most common genetic disorders, especially among European descendants. Recent results suggest that  $\alpha(1)$ ATD carriers are at a 70–100% increased risk of lung cancer, accounting for 11% to 12% of patients with lung cancer ([Yang et al., 2008](#)). [The specific effect by smoking status was not evaluated.]

#### (v) *Other genes*

Mutations in the checkpoint CHEK2 gene have been associated with increased risk of breast, prostate and colon cancer and a decreased risk of lung cancer among those with the I157T missense variant of the CHEK2 gene. In a large Polish case–control study CHEK2 mutations were protective against lung cancer (OR, 0.3; 95%CI: 0.2–0.5) ([Cybulski et al., 2008](#)).

The Swedish Family-Cancer Database was used to compare the rate of lung cancers among persons without family history of lung cancer to those with a family history ([Li & Hemminki, 2004](#)). A high risk by family history in adenocarcinoma (standardized incidence ratio (SIR),

2.03) and large cell carcinoma (SIR, 2.14) was found, a slightly lower risk among patients with squamous cell carcinoma (SIR, 1.63) and small cell carcinoma (SIR, 1.55). Among siblings, an increased risk was shown for concordant adenocarcinoma and small cell carcinoma at all ages and for all histological types when cancer was diagnosed before age 50. At young age, risks between siblings were higher than those between offspring and parents. These data suggest that a large proportion of lung cancers before age 50 are heritable and due to a high-penetrant recessive gene or genes that predispose to tobacco carcinogen susceptibility.

#### (e) *Viral infection*

Data are limited regarding lung cancer risk in human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)-infected persons with modest immune suppression, before the onset of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS). Among 57350 HIV-infected persons registered in the USA during 1991–2002 (median CD4 counts 491 cells/mm<sup>3</sup>), 871 cancers occurred. Risk was elevated for several non-AIDS defining malignancies, including cancer of the lung (SIR, 2.6 [*n* = 109]) (Engels *et al.*, 2008). [Specific evaluation with smoking status was not performed.]

## 2.3 Cancers of the upper aerodigestive tract

Evidence relating to cancers of the upper aerodigestive tract obtained from relevant cohort and case-control studies on specific sites is described in Sections 2.3.1 to 2.3.6; studies that looked at several subsites combined are described in Section 2.3.7. The major potential confounders for the relationship between smoking and cancers of the upper aerodigestive tract are alcohol consumption and use of any form of smokeless tobacco, and for some sites infection with human papillomavirus (HPV) (especially HPV16). In

general, the studies examined by the Working Group had adjusted for these two confounders when appropriate. Some studies also adjusted for dietary intake, especially of fruits and vegetables, although few reported stratified relative risks.

### 2.3.1 *Cancer of the oral cavity*

Tobacco smoking was found to be causally related to oral cancer (IARC, 1986, 2004a). New studies on the relationship between oral cancer and cigarette smoking published since the most recent IARC Monograph (IARC, 2004a) include four cohort studies (Table 2.7 available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-01-Table2.7.pdf>), and eight case-control studies (Tables 2.8–2.11 online; see below).

#### (a) *Intensity and duration of smoking*

Intensity of smoking was measured in almost all cohort (Table 2.7 online) and case-control studies (IARC 2004a; Table 2.8 available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-01-Table2.8.pdf> and Table 2.9 available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-01-Table2.9.pdf>). In addition to the number of cigarettes or amount of tobacco smoked daily, cumulative exposure to cigarette smoke was also measured in terms of pack-years, tobacco-years or lifetime tobacco consumption. The link between duration of cigarette consumption and oral cancer was examined in 15 case-control studies. Seven case-control studies also considered age at starting smoking.

One cohort study (McLaughlin *et al.*, 1995) and 14 case-control studies reported a dose-dependent increase in risk with increasing number of cigarettes smoked daily or increasing daily tobacco consumption (Franceschi *et al.*, 1990, 1992, 1999; Nandakumar *et al.*, 1990; Zheng *et al.*, 1990; Choi & Kahyo, 1991; Oreggia *et al.*, 1991; Bundgaard *et al.*, 1995; Zheng *et al.*, 1997; De Stefani *et al.*, 1998; Hayes *et al.*, 1999; De Stefani



*et al.*, 2007; Subapriya *et al.*, 2007; Muwonge *et al.*, 2008). Whenever analysed, the trend was always statistically significant (Franceschi *et al.*, 1990, 1992; Oreggia *et al.*, 1991; Bundgaard *et al.*, 1995; McLaughlin *et al.*, 1995; Hayes *et al.*, 1999; Subapriya *et al.*, 2007), except in the study of Muwonge *et al.* (2008) which also included bidi smokers.

Bundgaard *et al.* (1995) used lifetime tobacco consumption divided into four categories and reported a positive, significant trend after adjustment for life-time consumption of alcohol and other risk factors. A positive trend was also found in all studies that have analysed consumption in pack-years or tobacco-years (Zheng *et al.*, 1990; Maier *et al.*, 1992a; Macfarlane *et al.*, 1995; Hung *et al.*, 1997; Zheng *et al.*, 1997; De Stefani *et al.*, 1998, 2007; Applebaum *et al.*, 2007; Muwonge *et al.*, 2008), except Muwonge *et al.* (2008).

Ten studies (Franceschi *et al.*, 1990, 1992; Nandakumar *et al.*, 1990; Zheng *et al.*, 1990; Choi & Kahyo, 1991; Oreggia *et al.*, 1991; Zheng *et al.*, 1997; De Stefani *et al.*, 1998, 2007; Znaor *et al.*, 2003; Subapriya *et al.*, 2007; Muwonge *et al.*, 2008) classified the duration of smoking in up to four categories, and all but one (Nandakumar *et al.*, 1990) reported increased relative risks and a positive trend.

Of six studies that considered age at start of smoking (Franceschi *et al.*, 1990, 1992; Choi & Kahyo, 1991; Oreggia *et al.*, 1991; Zheng *et al.*, 1997; Balaram *et al.*, 2002) two reported a statistically significant trend of increasing risk with decreasing age at starting (Franceschi *et al.*, 1990, 1992).

#### (b) Cessation of smoking

Three cohort studies (McLaughlin *et al.*, 1995; Freedman *et al.*, 2007a; Friborg *et al.*, 2007) and nine case-control studies (Zheng *et al.*, 1990; Choi & Kahyo, 1991; Oreggia *et al.*, 1991; Franceschi *et al.*, 1992; Ko *et al.*, 1995; Zheng *et al.*, 1997; De Stefani *et al.*, 1998, 2007; Schildt *et al.*, 1998; Balaram *et al.*, 2002; Pacella-Norman

*et al.*, 2002; Muwonge *et al.*, 2008) estimated risks for former smokers which were always lower than those for current smokers and in five studies almost reached unity (Zheng *et al.*, 1990; Choi & Kahyo, 1991; Zheng *et al.*, 1997; Schildt *et al.*, 1998; Muwonge *et al.*, 2008). Twelve case-control studies examined the risk by years since quitting and all reported a negative trend, with relative risks compared with those in non-smokers decreasing to near unity after 10 or more years (Franceschi *et al.*, 1990, 1992; De Stefani *et al.*, 1998, 2007; Schlecht *et al.*, 1999a; Table 2.7 online; Table 2.10 available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-01-Table2.10.pdf>).

#### (c) Type of cigarette

The effect of the type of cigarette smoked was examined in several case-control studies (Table 2.11 available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-01-Table2.11.pdf>). The characteristics of the cigarettes included the presence of a filter, the type of tobacco, the tar content and whether the product was manufactured or hand-rolled. Two studies reported a statistically significantly higher risk for black than for blond tobacco (Oreggia *et al.*, 1991; De Stefani *et al.*, 1998, 2007). Similarly, a much higher risk was found for hand-rolled cigarettes than for manufactured cigarettes, and plain cigarettes had a much higher risk than filter-tipped cigarettes (De Stefani *et al.*, 1998, 2007). In one study the differences between black and blond tobacco and between hand-rolled and manufactured cigarettes persisted after stratification by duration of smoking (De Stefani *et al.*, 1998). Smoking cigarettes with a high-tar content led to higher risks than smoking cigarettes with a low-tar content (Franceschi *et al.*, 1992) and the same trend was observed for cigarettes without filter compared to cigarettes with filter (De Stefani *et al.*, 2007).

*(d) Sex*

Sex-specific effects were examined in two case-control studies ([Zheng et al., 1990](#); [Hayes et al., 1999](#)). In both studies, the relative risks for all categories of intensity, duration of smoking and pack-years were higher for women than for men. [The Working Group noted that the background risk of oral cancer is considerably lower in women than men. Thus, the higher relative risk estimates in women than men indicate a higher proportionate contribution from smoking in women than men, rather than higher absolute risk.]

*2.3.2 Cancer of the pharynx*

Tobacco smoking was considered to be an important cause of oropharyngeal and hypopharyngeal cancers in the previous *IARC Monographs* on tobacco smoking ([IARC, 1986, 2004a](#)). Since then, results available from three cohort (Table 2.12 available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-01-Table2.12.pdf>) and seven case-control studies (Table 2.13 available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-01-Table2.13.pdf> and Table 2.14 available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-01-Table2.14.pdf>) provide further support for the association. Many studies, however, combine cancers of the oral cavity and pharynx (see Section 2.3.7). This section summarizes the evidence from all eight cohort and 21 case-control studies that reported results specifically on oropharyngeal and hypopharyngeal cancer, or on pharyngeal cancer in general; the latter may include data on nasopharyngeal cancer.

The risk for pharyngeal cancer was significantly increased in smokers in four cohort studies ([Doll et al., 2005](#); [McLaughlin et al., 1995](#); [Freedman et al., 2007a](#); [Friborg et al., 2007](#)) and all but one of the case-control studies ([Rao et al., 1999](#)). The trend of increasing risk associated with increasing daily or cumulative consumption

of cigarettes was evident from all these studies, particularly those from Europe ([Brugere et al., 1986](#); [Tuyns et al., 1988](#); [Franceschi et al., 1990, 1999](#); [Maier et al., 1994](#); [Escribano Uzcudun et al., 2002](#); [Vlajinac et al., 2006](#)), India ([Znaor et al., 2003](#); [Sapkota et al., 2007](#)), Uruguay ([De Stefani et al., 1998, 2007](#)) and the USA ([McLaughlin et al., 1995](#); [Applebaum et al., 2007](#)), and less strongly so in studies from Canada ([Elwood et al., 1984](#)) and the Republic of Korea ([Choi & Kahyo, 1991](#)). The multicentre study in Europe, North and South America of [Hashibe et al. \(2007c\)](#) showed increased risks according to frequency (cigarettes/day) and duration (years) in never drinkers. [Applebaum et al. \(2007\)](#) found a relationship between increasing risk of pharyngeal cancer and increased pack-years of smoking in subjects with negative HPV16 serology but not in those with positive HPV16 serology (p value for interaction = 0.007).

In two case-control studies the risk increased with decreasing age at starting smoking ([Franceschi et al., 1990](#); [Choi & Kahyo, 1991](#)), but adjustment was not made for duration and intensity of smoking. In a case-control study from Spain ([Escribano Uzcudun et al., 2002](#)) the risk increased with the age of starting smoking.

Former smokers had consistently lower relative risks than did current smokers in both cohort ([McLaughlin et al., 1995](#); [Freedman et al., 2007a](#)) and case-control studies ([Choi & Kahyo, 1991](#); [De Stefani et al., 1998](#); [Vlajinac et al., 2006](#)). In comparison with non-smokers, the relative risks for former smokers who had quit smoking for more than 10 years were between 2 and 4 ([Franceschi et al., 1990](#); [De Stefani et al., 1998](#); [La Vecchia et al., 1999](#)), whereas the relative risks for current smokers in these studies were 10–14. In one study in Brazil ([Schlecht et al., 1999a](#)), relative risks for former smokers who had stopped smoking for more than 10 years approached 1, whereas that for current smokers was just below 6. Consumption of black tobacco, hand-rolled cigarettes or plain cigarettes resulted in a higher

risk for pharyngeal cancer than consumption of blond tobacco, manufactured cigarettes or filter-tipped cigarettes (De Stefani *et al.*, 1998; 2007).

### 2.3.3 Cancer of the nasal cavity and accessory sinuses

In the Life Span Study in Japan (Akiba, 1994) the association of tobacco use with sinonasal cancer was examined. A total of 26 cases of sino-nasal cancer were identified among 61505 adults during follow-up. Relative risk estimates, adjusted for sex, location, population group, atomic bomb exposure, year of birth and attained age, were 2.9 (95%CI: 0.5–) and 4.0 (95%CI: 1.2–) for former and current smokers, respectively, when compared with non-smokers [upper confidence limits were not reported]. The cohort of 34439 British doctors followed up to 50 years (Doll *et al.*, 2005) showed increased risk for current smokers and smokers of more than 25 cigarettes per day, but only six deaths from nasal cavity and sinuses cancers were observed (Table 2.15 available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-01-Table2.15.pdf>).

A total of nine case-control studies of nasal cavity and sinus cancers have been conducted. When histological types were combined, all studies found an increased risk associated with cigarette smoking, but only one was statistically significant (Caplan *et al.*, 2000). In seven studies, dose-response in terms of intensity of smoking (cigarettes/day), duration of smoking or pack-years was considered. A positive significant trend was found in five studies (Brinton *et al.*, 1984; Hayes *et al.*, 1987; Fukuda & Shibata, 1990; Zheng *et al.*, 1993; Caplan *et al.*, 2000) and suggested in the other two (Strader *et al.*, 1988; Zheng *et al.*, 1992c).

One study (Zheng *et al.*, 1993a) found a significant decrease in risk for sinonasal cancer associated with increasing number of years since cessation of smoking. In a previous study, the

same authors had found a negative, non-significant association (Zheng *et al.*, 1992c).

Five studies analysed squamous-cell carcinomas and adenocarcinomas separately (Brinton *et al.*, 1984; Hayes *et al.*, 1987; Strader *et al.*, 1988; Zheng *et al.*, 1992c; 't Mannetje *et al.*, 1999). In all studies, there was a significantly increased risk for squamous-cell carcinomas, whereas the risk was generally not increased for adenocarcinomas.

### 2.3.4 Cancer of the nasopharynx

#### (a) Cohort studies

The risk for nasopharyngeal carcinoma has been examined in relation to tobacco use in six cohort studies, three of them reported since the last evaluation (IARC 2004a; Table 2.16 available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-01-Table2.16.pdf>). In one study, conducted in a low-risk area (Chow *et al.*, 1993a), a significant increase in risk among smokers and suggestive positive dose-response relationships by duration of smoking and age at starting smoking were found. In another study, conducted in Province of Taiwan, China, an area in which nasopharyngeal cancer area is endemic, a similarly increased risk was found, but it was not statistically significant (Liaw & Chen, 1998). Doll *et al.* (2005) identified a risk only for smokers of more than 25 cigarettes per day, however, this result was based on only four deaths. Friberg *et al.* (2007) in Singapore found statistically significant increased risk of nasopharyngeal cancer only for those smoking for 40 years or more. Hsu *et al.* (2009) in Taiwan, China observed increased statistically significant risks only for those smoking for 30 years or more and those with cumulative exposure of 30 pack-years or more.

#### (b) Case-control studies

The study designs and the results of the case-control studies on the association of nasopharyngeal carcinoma with cigarette smoking



reported since the previous *IARC Monograph* (IARC, 2004a) are given in Table 2.17 (available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-01-Table2.17.pdf>) and Table 2.18 (available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-01-Table2.18.pdf>), one being a nested case–control analysis within a cohort study (Marsh *et al.*, 2007).

In total, 14 informative case–control studies were available. In almost all of these, the risk for nasopharyngeal carcinoma was higher in smokers than in non-smokers. In Taiwan, China (Cheng *et al.*, 1999) high risks were statistically significant only for duration of smoking of 20 years or more. In the five studies conducted in the USA (Mabuchi *et al.*, 1985; Nam *et al.*, 1992; Zhu *et al.*, 1995; Vaughan *et al.*, 1996; Marsh *et al.*, 2007), where the incidence of nasopharyngeal carcinoma is low, the relative risks for current smokers ranged between 2 and 4, but were not statistically significant in the two studies (Mabuchi *et al.*, 1985; Marsh *et al.*, 2007). In a study conducted in Shanghai, an area of China in which nasopharyngeal carcinoma is not endemic (Yuan *et al.*, 2000), the relative risk was just below 2. In one study from the Philippines there was a sevenfold increase in risk after more than 30 years of smoking (West *et al.*, 1993). The four studies (Lin *et al.*, 1973; Yu *et al.*, 1990; Ye *et al.*, 1995; Cao *et al.*, 2000) conducted in areas of China in which nasopharyngeal carcinoma is endemic (Taiwan, China, Guangzhou, and Sihui) found relative risks for ever smoking ranging between 2 and 5. In the study from the North of Africa (Feng *et al.*, 2009) the only statistically significant increased risk was found for differentiated nasopharyngeal cancer in those that had smoked more than 22 cigarettes/day. [The result, based only on three cases, is very unstable (RR, 313; 95%CI: 1.94–50336).]

A statistically significant dose–response relationship was detected in seven studies that evaluated the effects of daily or cumulative exposure to tobacco smoke (Yu *et al.*, 1990; Nam *et al.*, 1992;

Zhu *et al.*, 1995; Vaughan *et al.*, 1996; Cao *et al.*, 2000; Yuan *et al.*, 2000; Feng *et al.*, 2009) and was suggestive in two others (Lin *et al.*, 1973; West *et al.*, 1993). In two studies the risk of nasopharyngeal carcinoma decreased with increasing time since quitting smoking (Nam *et al.*, 1992; Vaughan *et al.*, 1996).

In the remaining studies, six from areas in which nasopharyngeal carcinoma is endemic (Ng, 1986; Yu *et al.*, 1986; Sriamporn *et al.*, 1992; Zheng *et al.*, 1994; Cheng *et al.*, 1999; Feng *et al.*, 2009; Guo *et al.*, 2009) and seven from areas in which it was not endemic (Henderson *et al.*, 1976; Lanier *et al.*, 1980; Mabuchi *et al.*, 1985; Ning *et al.*, 1990; Armstrong *et al.*, 2000; Marsh *et al.*, 2007), the relative risks for nasopharyngeal carcinoma for ever smoking were not significantly increased (Lanier *et al.*, 1980; Mabuchi *et al.*, 1985; Cheng *et al.*, 1999) or were close to 1.0 (Henderson *et al.*, 1976; Ng, 1986; Yu *et al.*, 1986; Ning *et al.*, 1990; Sriamporn *et al.*, 1992; Zheng *et al.*, 1994; Guo *et al.*, 2009).

In the two studies that distinguished between different histological types, relative risks were higher for keratinized (squamous-cell) carcinoma than for unkeratinized carcinoma (Zhu *et al.*, 1995; Vaughan *et al.*, 1996).

In the three studies in which men and women were analysed separately (Lin *et al.*, 1973; Nam *et al.*, 1992; Yuan *et al.*, 2000), the relative risks were found to increase similarly in both sexes in two studies (Nam *et al.*, 1992; Yuan *et al.*, 2000) and were higher among women in the study of Lin *et al.* (1973).

### 2.3.5 Cancer of the oesophagus

In the previous *IARC Monograph* (IARC, 2004a), both histological subtypes of oesophageal cancer (squamous-cell carcinoma and adenocarcinoma) were considered to be causally related to cigarette smoking. Many more epidemiological studies have since been conducted, and results of these studies further support this conclusion.

(a) *Squamous cell carcinoma and unspecified cancer of the oesophagus*

Since the previous *IARC Monograph* (IARC, 2004a), there have been reports on 9 cohort studies (Table 2.19 available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-01-Table2.19.pdf>) and 22 case-control studies (Tables 2.20–2.23; see below), making 30 cohort and 55 case-control studies in all. All showed that the risk of oesophageal squamous cell carcinoma was associated with cigarette smoking. In one study (Li *et al.*, 1989), the elevated risk was observed only in an area with a relatively low incidence of oesophageal cancer. However, two later studies in the same area, Lin County, China, found a twofold increase in risk for oesophageal cancer among smokers (Gao *et al.*, 1994; Lu *et al.*, 2000).

In most cohort studies and in most case-control studies with relatively large sample sizes (IARC, 2004a; Table 2.19 online; Table 2.20 available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-01-Table2.20.pdf>; Table 2.21 available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-01-Table2.21.pdf>), the risk for oesophageal cancer was shown to increase with increasing duration of smoking (11 cohort and 32 case-control studies) or number of cigarettes smoked daily (18 cohort and 31 case-control studies), and to decrease with increasing age at starting smoking (12 case-control studies). In comparison with pharyngeal and laryngeal cancers, relative risks for oesophageal cancer estimated by duration and by intensity of smoking were somewhat lower (see Sections 2.3.2 and 2.3.6, respectively).

Ten cohort and 20 case-control studies (IARC, 2004a; Table 2.19 online; Table 2.22 available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-01-Table2.22.pdf>) investigated the effect of smoking cessation on risk of oesophageal cancer. Although not all studies analysed the trend, all found a decreasing

relative risk with increasing number of years since quitting. In some studies, the risk first started to decrease after 10 years of cessation (Brown *et al.*, 1988; Rolón *et al.*, 1995; Gammon *et al.*, 1997; Castellsagué *et al.*, 1999; Freedman *et al.*, 2007b; Bosetti *et al.*, 2008) or after 30 years of cessation (Pandeya *et al.*, 2008).

When comparing the types of tobacco smoked (Table 2.23 available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-01-Table2.23.pdf>), consumption of black tobacco resulted in a higher risk for oesophageal cancer than did consumption of blond tobacco (De Stefani *et al.*, 1990; Rolón *et al.*, 1995; Castellsagué *et al.*, 1999; Launoy *et al.*, 2000; Vioque *et al.*, 2008). Similarly, smoking untipped cigarettes generally resulted in a higher risk than smoking filter-tipped cigarettes (Vaughan *et al.*, 1995; Gammon *et al.*, 1997; Castellsagué *et al.*, 1999).

Two studies from the USA reported risks separately for blacks and whites. After adjustment for alcohol consumption, age and income, risks were very similar for former and current smokers and for the number of cigarettes smoked per day and duration of smoking (Brown *et al.*, 1994a; Brown *et al.*, 2001).

(b) *Adenocarcinoma of the oesophagus*

Two decades ago it was noted that incidence rates for adenocarcinoma of the oesophagus and gastric cardia had increased steadily in the USA, whereas the incidence rate for squamous-cell carcinoma of the oesophagus had remained relatively stable (Blot *et al.*, 1991). An increase in the incidence of adenocarcinoma of the distal oesophagus and cardia was also noted in the United Kingdom (Powell & McConkey, 1990), and in several other countries. Since 1990, several studies have focused on the risk factors for adenocarcinoma of the oesophagus. Since the last evaluation (IARC, 2004a) one cohort study (Freedman *et al.*, 2007b) and three case-control studies (Table 2.24 available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/>

[vol100E/100E-01-Table2.24.pdf](#); Table 2.25 available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-01-Table2.25.pdf>) have been reported, totaling 13 case-control studies on the association of cigarette smoking and adenocarcinoma of the oesophagus.

(i) *Intensity and duration of smoking*

Ten studies, three that included only cases of adenocarcinoma of the oesophagus ([Menke-Pluymers et al., 1993](#); [Gammon et al., 1997](#); [Wu et al., 2001](#)), three that included cases of adenocarcinoma of the oesophagus, gastro-oesophageal junction and gastric cardia combined ([Kabat et al., 1993](#); [Brown et al., 1994b](#); [Vaughan et al., 1995](#)), and four that stratified by histology ([Lindblad et al., 2005](#); [Freedman et al., 2007b](#); [Hashibe et al., 2007a](#); [Pandeya et al., 2008](#)), showed a significant positive association of adenocarcinoma of the oesophagus with cigarette smoking. The relative risks were somewhat lower than those for squamous cell carcinoma of the oesophagus. Three studies, one in China ([Gao et al., 1994](#)), one in Sweden ([Lagergren et al., 2000](#)), and one in the USA ([Zhang et al., 1996](#)), reported similarly elevated relative risks, but some of these risks were not statistically significant, probably because of relatively small numbers of cases.

Of those studies that reported risks adjusted for alcohol consumption, a positive, significant dose-response relationship was found with intensity of smoking ([Kabat et al., 1993](#); [Brown et al., 1994b](#); [Gammon et al., 1997](#); [Hashibe et al., 2007a](#)), duration of smoking ([Gammon et al., 1997](#); [Pandeya et al., 2008](#)) and/or pack-years ([Vaughan et al., 1995](#); [Zhang et al., 1996](#); [Gammon et al., 1997](#); [Pandeya et al., 2008](#)).

(ii) *Cessation of smoking*

Ten studies provided point estimates for former smokers. In eight, relative risks were lower in former smokers than in current smokers, although they remained elevated ([Kabat et al.,](#)

[1993](#); [Gao et al., 1994](#); [Vaughan et al., 1995](#); [Gammon et al., 1997](#); [Wu et al., 2001](#); [Lindblad et al., 2005](#); [Freedman et al., 2007b](#); [Pandeya et al., 2008](#)), and were increased in the other studies ([Lagergren et al., 2000](#); [Hashibe et al., 2007a](#)). The decrease in relative risk associated with years since cessation was weak, but a significant trend was found in two out of six studies ([Gammon et al., 1997](#); [Wu et al., 2001](#)).

(iii) *Confounding*

With the exception of two studies ([Levi et al., 1990](#); [Wu et al., 2001](#)), all studies adjusted for alcohol intake as a potential confounder. Three more recent studies also adjusted for fruit and vegetables intake ([Freedman et al., 2007b](#); [Hashibe et al., 2007a](#); [Pandeya et al., 2008](#)). Ten of these studies were conducted in the USA ([Kabat et al., 1993](#); [Brown et al., 1994b](#); [Vaughan et al., 1995](#); [Zhang et al., 1996](#); [Gammon et al., 1997](#); [Freedman et al., 2007b](#)) the Netherlands ([Menke-Pluymers et al., 1993](#)), the United Kingdom ([Lindblad et al., 2005](#)), central and eastern Europe ([Hashibe et al., 2007a](#)) and Australia ([Pandeya et al., 2008](#)), where chewing of betel quid with tobacco or use of other forms of smokeless tobacco are not likely confounders. One study conducted in Sweden was adjusted for snuff use ([Lagergren et al., 2000](#)).

(iv) *Sex*

[Kabat et al. \(1993\)](#) examined risks for men and women separately and observed similar patterns in both sexes, although risks among current smokers and heavy smokers were somewhat higher for women than for men. [Lindblad et al. \(2005\)](#) also found higher risks in women than in men, but they were not statistically significant.

### 2.3.6 Cancer of the larynx

Laryngeal cancer is one of the cancers most strongly associated with cigarette smoking ([IARC, 1986, 2004a](#)). Since the previous IARC

*Monograph*, more epidemiological evidence has become available to strengthen this conclusion.

#### (a) Potential confounders

Other causes of laryngeal cancer include alcohol consumption, some occupational exposures (e.g. sulphuric acid; [IARC, 2012a](#)) and possibly some dietary habits. In investigating associations between smoking and laryngeal cancer, potential confounding by alcohol consumption has been considered in most of the studies.

#### (b) Intensity and duration of smoking

Cohort and case-control studies have been carried out in Asia, Europe, North and South America, and South Africa. In all, the risk for laryngeal cancer was consistently higher in smokers, and a positive significant trend was observed with increasing duration and intensity of smoking ([IARC, 2004a](#); Table 2.26 available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-01-Table2.26.pdf>; Table 2.27 available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-01-Table2.27.pdf>; Table 2.28 available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-01-Table2.28.pdf>).

In most case-control studies, the relative risks for laryngeal cancer were near to or greater than 10 for smokers who had smoked for longer than 40 years ([Falk et al., 1989](#); [Zheng et al., 1992b](#)) or had smoked more than 20 cigarettes per day ([Tuyns et al., 1988](#); [Falk et al., 1989](#); [Choi & Kahyo, 1991](#); [Zatonski et al., 1991](#); [Muscat & Wynder, 1992](#); [Zheng et al., 1992b](#); [Hedberg et al., 1994](#); [Sokić et al., 1994](#); [Talamini et al., 2002](#)). Cancer of the larynx in non-smokers is so rare that several studies used as the reference category light smokers ([Herity et al., 1982](#); [Olsen et al., 1985a](#); [De Stefani et al., 1987](#); [Zatonski et al., 1991](#); [López-Abente et al., 1992](#); [Maier & Tisch, 1997](#)), or former smokers ([Hashibe et al., 2007b](#)). Consequently, relative risks were lower

in these studies, although the increases were still statistically significant.

Three case-control studies reported odds ratios for cancer of the larynx that increased with decreasing age of starting smoking ([Franceschi et al., 1990](#); [Zatonski et al., 1991](#); [Talamini et al., 2002](#)).

#### (c) Cessation of smoking

The risk for cancer of the larynx declines rather rapidly after cessation of smoking ([IARC, 2004a](#); Table 2.29 available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-01-Table2.29.pdf>). No detectable higher risk compared with never-smokers was seen among subjects who had quit smoking for at least 10 years ([Franceschi et al., 1990](#); [Ahrens et al., 1991](#); [Schlecht et al., 1999a, b](#); [Bosetti et al., 2006](#); [Hashibe et al., 2007b](#)).

#### (d) Types of tobacco or of cigarette

Some investigators considered the role of type of tobacco ([IARC, 2004a](#); Table 2.30 available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-01-Table2.30.pdf>). An average 2.5-fold higher risk was observed in smokers of black tobacco compared to smokers of blond tobacco ([De Stefani et al., 1987](#); [Tuyns et al., 1988](#); [López-Abente et al., 1992](#)). Smoking untipped cigarettes also led to a higher risk than smoking filter-tipped cigarettes ([Wynder & Stellman, 1979](#); [Tuyns et al., 1988](#); [Falk et al., 1989](#)). Those that smoke cigarettes only had higher risks of larynx cancer than those that smoke cigars only ([Hashibe et al., 2007b](#)).

#### (e) Subsites

Six studies investigated the risk for glottic and supraglottic cancer separately ([Olsen et al., 1985a](#); [Tuyns et al., 1988](#); [López-Abente et al., 1992](#); [Maier et al., 1992b](#); [Muscat & Wynder, 1992](#); [Sapkota et al., 2007](#)). The cancer risk increased with increasing amount smoked per



day and with cumulative exposure for both subsites (IARC, 2004a; Table 2.28 online). In addition, the observed relative risks were higher for supraglottic cancer than for glottic cancer (Maier *et al.*, 1992b; Sapkota *et al.*, 2007).

#### (f) Sex

Few studies investigated sex-specific effects. In one cohort study (Raitiola & Pukander, 1997) similar risks were found for men and women, whereas in two case-control studies (Zheng *et al.*, 1992b; Tavani *et al.*, 1994), the relative risks for women were up to 10-fold higher than for the corresponding categories in men, though a small number of cases were involved. However, Freedman *et al.* (2007a) observed higher relative risks in men than women (Table 2.26 online). One study looked at women only and found higher risks of laryngeal cancer in former and current smokers relative to non-smokers, and also according to the number of cigarettes per day with a clear dose-response effect ( $P < 0.001$ ) (Gallus *et al.*, 2003b).

### 2.3.7 Cancer of the upper aerodigestive tract combined

In epidemiological studies, especially in cohort studies in which there are few cases at some sites, investigators often combine cancers of the oral cavity, pharynx, larynx and oesophagus and term these ‘cancer of the upper aerodigestive tract’. This section summarizes the data from 19 cohort studies (IARC, 2004a; Table 2.31 available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-01-Table2.31.pdf>), and 40 case-control studies (IARC, 2004a; Tables 2.32–2.35; see below).

#### (a) Intensity and duration of smoking

In all but two cohort studies from Japan (Kono *et al.*, 1987; Akiba, 1994), the risk for cancer of the upper aerodigestive tract was strongly associated with cigarette smoking. Relative risks increased

with increasing daily cigarette consumption (Hammond & Horn, 1958; Doll *et al.*, 1980, 1994; Akiba & Hirayama, 1990; Kuller *et al.*, 1991; Chyou *et al.*, 1995; Engeland *et al.*, 1996; Murata *et al.*, 1996; Yuan *et al.*, 1996; Kjaerheim *et al.*, 1998; Liaw & Chen, 1998; Yun *et al.*, 2005; Freedman *et al.*, 2007a), duration of smoking (Chyou *et al.*, 1995; Yun *et al.*, 2005; Friberg *et al.*, 2007) or pack-years (Liaw & Chen, 1998; Freedman *et al.*, 2007a).

The main characteristics and results of the case-control studies are presented in IARC (2004a), and in Table 2.32 (available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-01-Table2.32.pdf>) and Table 2.33 (available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-01-Table2.33.pdf>), respectively. Intensity of smoking was measured in most of these studies. The link between duration of smoking and cancer of the upper aerodigestive tract was examined in 20 case-control studies (Blot *et al.*, 1988; Merletti *et al.*, 1989; Barra *et al.*, 1991; De Stefani *et al.*, 1992, 2007; Franceschi *et al.*, 1992; Day *et al.*, 1993; Mashberg *et al.*, 1993; Kabat *et al.*, 1994; Lewin *et al.*, 1998; Bosetti *et al.*, 2000a; Garrote *et al.*, 2001; Gallus *et al.*, 2003a; Lissowska *et al.*, 2003; Znaor *et al.*, 2003; Castellsagué *et al.*, 2004; Menvielle *et al.*, 2004a, b; Rodriguez *et al.*, 2004; Hashibe *et al.*, 2007c; Sapkota *et al.*, 2007). Nine also considered age at starting smoking (Blot *et al.*, 1988; Merletti *et al.*, 1989; Barra *et al.*, 1991; Franceschi *et al.*, 1992; Day *et al.*, 1993; Lewin *et al.*, 1998; Garrote *et al.*, 2001; Lissowska *et al.*, 2003; Menvielle *et al.*, 2004a).

In all but one study (Rao *et al.*, 1999) there was an increased risk for cancer of the upper aerodigestive tract associated with cigarette smoking. A clear dose-response relationship was seen with increasing daily tobacco consumption and duration of smoking as well as with decreasing age at starting smoking in most of the studies examined.

*(b) Cessation of smoking*

Twelve cohort studies ([Doll et al., 1980, 1994](#); [Tomita et al., 1991](#); [Akiba, 1994](#); [Chyou et al., 1995](#); [Engeland et al., 1996](#); [Nordlund et al., 1997](#); [Kjaerheim et al., 1998](#); [Yun et al., 2005](#); [Freedman et al., 2007a](#); [Friborg et al., 2007](#); [Ide et al., 2008](#)) provided point estimates for former smokers ([IARC 2004a](#); Table 2.31 online). The relative risks for former smokers were always lower than those for current smokers.

In 16 case-control studies the relative risk by years since quitting was examined and generally a statistically significant negative trend was found (Table 2.34 available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-01-Table2.34.pdf>).

*(c) Types of cigarette*

The characteristics studied in several case-control studies included the use of a filter, the type of tobacco, the tar content and whether the product was manufactured or hand-rolled ([IARC, 2004a](#); Table 2.35 available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-01-Table2.35.pdf>). Consumption of black tobacco, cigars, untipped cigarettes, hand-rolled cigarettes, or cigarettes with a high-tar yield generally resulted in a higher risk than consumption of blond tobacco ([Merletti et al., 1989](#); [Castellsagué et al., 2004](#); [De Stefani et al., 2007](#)), filter-tipped cigarettes ([Merletti et al., 1989](#); [Mashberg et al., 1993](#); [Kabat et al., 1994](#); [Lissowska et al., 2003](#); [De Stefani et al., 2007](#)), manufactured cigarettes ([De Stefani et al., 1992, 2007](#)) or low-tar cigarettes ([Franceschi et al., 1992](#)). Two studies from India ([Znaor et al., 2003](#); [Sapkota et al., 2007](#)) revealed higher risks of *bidi* smoking related to cigarettes smoking.

*(d) Sex*

Sex-specific effects were analysed in four cohort studies ([IARC 2004a](#); Table 2.31 online). In three cohort studies ([Hammond & Seidman,](#)

[1980](#); [Akiba & Hirayama, 1990](#); [Freedman et al., 2007a](#)) a higher relative risk was found for male smokers than for female smokers; however, [Ide et al. \(2008\)](#) detected a higher risk among women in a study with a small number of cases.

In three case-control studies ([Blot et al., 1988](#); [Kabat et al., 1994](#); [Muscat et al., 1996](#)) the relative risks were higher for women than for men in all categories of intensity of smoking (number of cigarettes per day), cumulative exposure (cumulative tar consumption, pack-years, duration of smoking) and age at starting smoking, as well as for former smokers. However, the trends in men were always in the same direction and of the same order of magnitude. An exception to the pattern was that in one study ([Merletti et al., 1989](#)) the relative risk for smoking filter-tipped cigarettes was higher than that for smoking untipped cigarettes for women.

Overall, the strength of association by sex was generally similar, especially when taking into account the fact that women generally under-report levels of smoking and that most studies included many fewer women than men.

*(e) Ethnicity*

Relative risks were reported separately for blacks and whites in a large case-control study from the USA ([Day et al., 1993](#)). Relative risks adjusted for alcohol consumption, sex and other relevant variables were very similar for the number of cigarettes smoked per day, years of cigarette smoking, age at starting smoking and number of years since stopping smoking.

## 2.4 Cancer of the stomach

### 2.4.1 Overview of studies

In the previous *IARC Monograph* ([IARC, 2004a](#)) it was concluded that there was *sufficient evidence* that tobacco smoking causes cancer of the stomach. Three meta-analyses have since examined the evidence for gastric cancer in 42



independent cohort studies published between 1958 and July 2007 ([Ladeiras-Lopes et al., 2008](#)), in 46 case-control studies published between 1997 and June 2006 ([La Torre et al., 2009](#)), and in 10 cohort and 16 case-control studies conducted in Japanese populations published between 1966 and March 2005 ([Nishino et al., 2006](#); Table 2.36 available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-01-Table2.36.pdf>). For current smokers compared to never smokers, the risk for stomach cancer was found to be statistically significantly increased by 53% ([Ladeiras-Lopes et al., 2008](#)), 56% ([Nishino et al., 2006](#)), and 57% when considering high quality case-control studies ([La Torre et al., 2009](#)), with moderate to high heterogeneity.

Since the previous *IARC Monograph* ([IARC, 2004a](#)), the association between cigarette smoking and stomach cancer risk (15 studies) and mortality (4 studies) has been examined in 19 cohort studies (Table 2.37 available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-01-Table2.37.pdf>). Eleven of these were conducted in Asia ([Sasazuki et al., 2002](#); [Jee et al., 2004](#); [Koizumi et al., 2004](#); [Wen et al., 2004](#); [Fujino et al., 2005](#); [Sauvaget et al., 2005](#); [Tran et al., 2005](#); [Kurosawa et al., 2006](#); [Kim et al., 2007](#); [Sung et al., 2007](#); [Shikata et al., 2008](#)), seven in Europe ([Simán et al., 2001](#); [González et al., 2003](#); [Doll et al., 2005](#); [Lindblad et al., 2005](#); [Sjödahl et al., 2007](#); [Batty et al., 2008](#); [Zendehdel et al., 2008](#)) and one in the USA ([Freedman et al., 2007a](#)). Only the updated British Doctors' study ([Doll et al., 2005](#)) and the most recent studies ([Shikata et al., 2008](#); [Zendehdel et al., 2008](#)) were not included in the meta-analysis of cohort studies ([Ladeiras-Lopes et al., 2008](#)). Elevated risks in current smokers were found in all studies. The reported association of current smoking with mortality in the four cohort studies conducted in Taiwan, China ([Wen et al., 2004](#)), Japan ([Kurosawa et al., 2006](#)) and the United Kingdom ([Doll et al., 2005](#); [Batty et al., 2008](#)) was comparable to that with incidence.

In addition, the association between smoking and stomach cancer risk has been reported in 37 case-control studies since the previous *IARC Monograph*, of which 22 are hospital-based and 15 population-based. With the exception of three studies ([Campos et al., 2006](#); [García-González et al., 2007](#); [Suwanrungruang et al., 2008](#); Table 2.38 available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-01-Table2.38.pdf>), all these studies were included in the meta-analysis conducted by ([La Torre et al., 2009](#)).

## 2.4.2 Factors affecting risk

### (a) Intensity and duration

Clear evidence has been provided by the meta-analyses as well as by the additional cohort studies that the risk for stomach cancer increases significantly with increasing daily cigarette consumption, duration or pack-years of smoking, although individual studies did not always find statistically significant dose-response relationships. In one meta-analysis based on 21 cohort studies, the risk for stomach cancer increased statistically significantly by 53% with consumption of approximately 20 cigarettes per day ([Ladeiras-Lopes et al., 2008](#)). Using trend estimation analysis as proposed by [Greenland & Longnecker \(1992\)](#), the authors found an increase in relative risk from 1.3 for the lowest consumption to 1.7 for smoking 30 cigarettes per day.

### (b) Cessation of smoking

Risk for stomach cancer has been generally found to be lower in former smokers than in current smokers. In six of the cohort studies decreasing risk with increasing years since stopping smoking was found although none found statistically significant dose-response relationships ([González et al., 2003](#); [Koizumi et al., 2004](#); [Sauvaget et al., 2005](#); [Freedman et al., 2007a](#); [Kim et al., 2007](#); [Zendehdel et al., 2008](#)). Risk in former smokers was comparable to never smokers after quitting for 5 years ([Kim et al.,](#)

2007), 10 years ([González et al., 2003](#); [Sauvaget et al., 2005](#); [Freedman et al., 2007a](#)) or 15 years ([Koizumi et al., 2004](#)).

### 2.4.3 Subsites

The effect of current smoking on the risk for stomach cancer by subsite was assessed in ten cohort studies. Elevated risks were found for both cardia and non-cardia cancers. In six studies higher risks were found for cancer of the gastric cardia than for cancer of the distal stomach ([Simán et al. 2001](#); [González et al., 2003](#); [Freedman et al., 2007a](#); [Sung et al., 2007](#); [Shikata et al., 2008](#); [Zendehdel et al., 2008](#)), three studies found no difference ([Sasazuki et al., 2002](#); [Lindblad et al., 2005](#); [Tran et al., 2005](#)), and in one study higher risk for cancer in the antrum rather than the body or the cardia was found ([Koizumi et al., 2004](#)). A meta-analysis yielded statistically significant summary relative risks of 1.87 for cardia cancers and 1.60 for non-cardia cancers based on nine cohort studies ([Ladeiras-Lopes et al., 2008](#)). However, there was substantial heterogeneity across studies for cardia cancers. For case–controls studies, the corresponding odds ratios were 2.05 (95%CI: 1.50–2.81) and 2.04 (95%CI: 1.66–2.50), respectively, with greater heterogeneity for non-cardia cancers. Criteria for the classification by subsite were not always described ([Simán et al., 2001](#); [Koizumi et al., 2004](#); [Lindblad et al., 2005](#); [Tran et al., 2005](#)) and some studies included tumours located in the upper third of the stomach in the group of cardia cancer ([Sasazuki et al., 2002](#); [Sung et al., 2007](#); [Shikata et al. 2008](#)).

In three studies risk estimates for smoking associated stomach cancer were estimated by histological type ([Sasazuki et al., 2002](#); [Koizumi et al., 2004](#); [Shikata et al., 2008](#)). The relative risks were 2.1 (95%CI: 1.2–3.6), 1.6 (95%CI: 1.1–2.3) and 2.3 (95%CI: 1.3–4.1) for the differentiated type, respectively, and 0.6 (95%CI: 0.3–1.1), 2.1

(95%CI: 1.1–4.1), and 1.3 (95%CI: 0.5–3.5) for the non-differentiated type, respectively.

### 2.4.4 Population characteristics

In four of the additional cohort studies risk was reported separately for men and women ([González et al., 2003](#); [Jee et al., 2004](#); [Fujino et al., 2005](#); [Kim et al., 2007](#)), in three studies only for men ([Koizumi et al., 2004](#); [Tran et al., 2005](#); [Sung et al., 2007](#)) and in one mortality study for men as well as for women ([Wen et al., 2004](#)). Generally, the relative risks were smaller in women than in men. For all stomach cancers, risk in current smokers compared to never smokers was found to be significantly increased by 62% in men (based on 18 studies) and by 20% in women (based on nine studies) in the meta-analysis of cohort studies ([Ladeiras-Lopes et al., 2008](#)). The men–women differences were independent of exposure level but could be explained by the sex difference in the distribution by histological type and other factors associated with socioeconomic status.

Ethnicity does not appear to modify the effect of smoking on stomach cancer risk. In the meta-analysis of case–control studies risk in current smokers was increased by 78% in Caucasians and by 48% in Asians ([La Torre et al., 2009](#)). The summary risk based on the cohort studies increased by 46% and 47% in Caucasian and Asian studies, respectively. In a meta-regression analysis including the variables sex, population, and fruit and vegetable consumption, sex but not origin of the population showed significant differences in risk estimates ([Ladeiras-Lopes et al., 2008](#)).

### 2.4.5 Bias and confounding

Generally, most cohort studies have relied on baseline information and did not update the exposure information, possibly leading to misclassification of smoking status. Most of

the recent cohort studies have accounted for confounding by alcohol consumption ([Fujino et al., 2005](#); [Lindblad et al., 2005](#); [Sjödahl et al., 2007](#); [Sung et al., 2007](#)) as well as fruit and vegetable consumption ([González et al., 2003](#); [Koizumi et al., 2004](#); [Freedman et al., 2007a](#)) and still observed significantly increased risk of stomach cancer in current smokers.

#### 2.4.6 *Helicobacter pylori* infection

The association between tobacco smoking and stomach cancer could be confounded or modified by the effect of *H. pylori* infection, an established risk factor for stomach cancer. In three case-control studies ([Zaridze et al., 2000](#); [Brenner et al., 2002](#); [Wu et al., 2003](#)), and two cohort studies ([Simán et al., 2001](#); [Shikata et al., 2008](#)) the joint effects and possible interaction between *H. pylori* status and smoking in relation to risk for stomach cancer was investigated. Among subjects who had *H. pylori* infection, the risk for stomach cancer was higher in current smokers than in non-smokers by 1.6 to 2.7 fold, providing evidence for a causal effect of tobacco smoking independently of *H. pylori* infection. Smoking was associated with risk elevations of the same order of magnitude among subjects without *H. pylori* infection. Smoking and *H. pylori* therefore may act synergistically, leading to very high risks in current smokers with *H. pylori* infection compared to non-smokers without *H. pylori* infection. In one study that examined risk by subsite an effect of smoking independent of *H. pylori* infection for gastric cardia as well as distal gastric cancer was found ([Wu et al., 2003](#)). In none of the studies was there statistically significant evidence for interaction.

## 2.5 Cancer of the pancreas

### 2.5.1 Overview of studies

Previous *IARC Monographs* ([IARC, 1986, 2004a](#)) concluded that exposure to tobacco smoke caused cancer of the pancreas. Additional evidence has come from a pooled analysis of eight cohort studies with almost 1500 incident cases of pancreatic cancer and an equal number of controls ([Lynch et al., 2009](#)) as well as a meta-analysis of 82 independent studies (42 case-control studies, 40 cohort studies) published between 1950 and 2007 ([Iodice et al., 2008](#); Table 2.39 available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-01-Table2.39.pdf>). In the meta-analysis 74% and 20% significant increased risks for current and former smokers, respectively, were found with significant heterogeneity of effect regarding current smoking across studies. Adjustment for confounders explained some of the heterogeneity ([Iodice et al., 2008](#)). A similar significant risk elevation of 77% for current smokers was found in the pooled analysis, without study heterogeneity ([Lynch et al., 2009](#)). For former smokers, risk was increased non-significantly by 9%.

Since the previous *IARC Monograph* ([IARC, 2004a](#)), a total of 15 cohort studies have reported on the association between cigarette smoking and pancreatic cancer incidence (8 studies) and mortality (5 studies) or both (one study) (Table 2.40 available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-01-Table2.40.pdf>), two of which were included in the pooled analysis ([Coughlin et al., 2000](#); [Vrieling et al., 2009](#)). Excluding case-control studies that did not report odds ratios for current smokers, there were three additional case-control studies ([Duell et al., 2002](#); [Inoue et al., 2003](#); [Alguacil & Silverman, 2004](#); Table 2.41 available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-01-Table2.41.pdf>). The effect of cigar and pipe smoking on pancreatic cancer was

also examined in the ACS Cancer Prevention Study II regarding mortality ([Shapiro et al., 2000](#); [Henley et al., 2004](#)) and in the Kaiser Permanente Medical Care Program regarding incidence ([Iribarren et al., 1999](#)). All the additional studies showed an increased risk for pancreatic cancer associated with tobacco smoking, generally higher in current than in former smokers. The reported risk estimates were not always statistically significant, predominantly due to the small size of some studies and therefore lack of statistical precision.

### 2.5.2 Factors affecting risks

#### (a) Intensity and duration

Clear evidence has been provided by the meta-analysis, the pooled analysis as well as the additional studies that the risk for cancer of the pancreas increases significantly with increasing daily cigarette consumption, duration and pack-years of smoking ([Coughlin et al., 2000](#); [Gapstur et al., 2000](#); [Nilsen & Vatten, 2000](#); [Nilsson et al., 2001](#); [Isaksson et al., 2002](#); [Doll et al., 2005](#); [Yun et al., 2005](#); [Ansary-Moghaddam et al., 2006](#); [Gallicchio et al., 2006](#); [Vrieling et al., 2009](#)). In the meta-analysis risk of pancreatic cancer increased significantly by 62% with an increase of 20 cigarettes per day (based on 45 studies) and by 16% with a 10-year increase in smoking duration (based on 16 studies), but with significant study heterogeneity. In the pooled analysis, the excess odds ratio per pack-years generally declined with increasing smoking intensity ([Lynch et al., 2009](#)).

#### (b) Cessation of smoking

A reduction in risk in former smokers who had stopped smoking for at least 10 years was found in the meta-analysis ([Iodice et al., 2008](#)) and the pooled study ([Lynch et al., 2009](#)). In some cohort studies risk was already comparable to never smokers five years after quitting ([Boyle et al., 1996](#); [Fuchs et al., 1996](#); [Nilsen & Vatten, 2000](#); [Vrieling et al., 2009](#)).

#### (c) Types of tobacco

In non-cigarette smokers, mortality from pancreatic cancer was increased although not statistically significantly so in cigar smokers in the CPS-II cohort study ([Shapiro et al., 2000](#)) as well as a large case-control study ([Alguacil & Silverman, 2004](#)) but was less clearly elevated in the smaller Kaiser Permanente cohort study ([Iribarren et al., 1999](#)). There was a significantly increased mortality for current cigar smokers who reported inhaling cigar smoke ([Shapiro et al., 2000](#)). Pipe smoking was also found to be associated with an increased risk of cancer of the pancreas, which was stronger in those who reported that they inhaled the smoke ([Henley et al., 2004](#)). A limitation of the cohort studies is that smoking habits were reported only at baseline, misclassification of smoking exposure is likely to underestimate the associated risks. In the meta-analysis there was a significant increase in risk of 47% associated with current cigar and/or pipe smoking (18 studies) and a non-significant risk elevation of 29% with former cigar and/or pipe smoking (5 studies) ([Iodice et al., 2008](#)).

### 2.5.3 Population characteristics

The effect of sex on pancreatic cancer risk was investigated in two cohort studies ([Nilsen & Vatten, 2000](#); [Larsson et al., 2005](#)) and on pancreatic cancer mortality in four cohort studies ([Coughlin et al., 2000](#); [Gapstur et al., 2000](#); [Nilsson et al., 2001](#); [Lin et al., 2002a](#)). The relative risks were comparable between men and women and no consistent evidence for an effect modification by sex was observed.

Ethnicity does not appear to modify the association of smoking with pancreatic cancer risk. The roughly twofold elevated risk in current smokers compared to never smokers was observed both in studies of Caucasians ([Lynch et al., 2009](#)) and of Asians ([Lin et al., 2002a](#); [Jee et al., 2004](#); [Yun et al., 2005](#); [Li et al., 2006](#)). In populations of the Asia-Pacific Region, there



was also no difference in the strength of association between Asia and Australia/New Zealand ([Ansary-Moghaddam et al., 2006](#)).

#### 2.5.4 Confounding factors

In two large cohort studies the risk estimates for pancreatic cancer associated with cigarette smoking were not substantially influenced by adjustment for further potential confounding factors, including diabetes, body mass index (BMI), alcohol and dietary intake ([Coughlin et al., 2000](#); [Vrieling et al., 2009](#)).

## 2.6 Cancer of the colorectum

### 2.6.1 Overview of studies

In the previous *IARC Monograph* ([IARC, 2004a](#)) it was not possible to conclude that the association between tobacco smoking and colorectal cancer is casual, principally because of concern about confounding by other risk factors. That evaluation was based on a total of 60 epidemiologic studies, although only few were specifically designed to study the effects of smoking. Studies have however shown consistently that cigarette smoking is a risk factor for colorectal adenomatous polyps, which are recognized precursor lesions of colorectal cancer ([Hill, 1978](#)). To explain this discrepancy, [Giovannucci et al. \(1994\)](#) hypothesized that a long induction period is required for tobacco to play a role in colorectal carcinogenesis, which would not be captured by studies with shorter follow-up time.

Four recent meta-analyses consistently showed a strong association between cigarette smoking and colorectal cancer ([Botteri et al., 2008a](#); [Liang et al., 2009](#); [Huxley et al., 2009](#); [Tsoi et al., 2009](#)).

### 2.6.2 Cohort studies

Since the previous *IARC Monograph* ([IARC, 2004a](#)), 22 additional cohort studies have investigated the association between tobacco smoke and colorectal cancer (Table 2.42 available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-01-Table2.42.pdf>). [Studies that did not provide point estimates of risk ([Andersen et al., 2009](#); [Hansen et al., 2009](#); [Murphy et al., 2009](#)) and included prevalent colorectal cancer in patients with other diagnosis ([Chan et al., 2007](#)) are excluded from this review]. Seven of the studies were conducted in Europe, nine in Asia and five in the USA. In eleven studies, risk estimates were reported solely for colorectal cancer ([Tiemersma et al., 2002a](#); [Limburg et al., 2003](#); [Otani et al., 2003](#); [Colangelo et al., 2004](#); [Sanjoaquin et al., 2004](#); [Lüchtenborg et al., 2005a](#); [Kim et al., 2006](#); [Akhter et al., 2007](#); [Huxley, 2007a](#); [Kenfield et al., 2008](#); [Hannan et al., 2009](#)), five studies separately for colon cancer and rectal cancer ([Shimizu et al., 2003](#); [Wakai et al., 2003](#); [Jee et al., 2004](#); [Yun et al., 2005](#); [Batty et al., 2008](#)) and five studies both for colorectal cancer as well as for colon and rectal cancers ([Terry et al., 2002a](#); [van der Hel et al., 2003a](#); [Doll et al., 2005](#); [Paskett et al., 2007](#); [Tsong et al., 2007](#); [Gram et al., 2009](#)). Six studies were restricted to women ([Terry et al., 2002a](#); [Limburg et al., 2003](#); [van der Hel et al., 2003a](#); [Paskett et al., 2007](#); [Kenfield et al., 2008](#); [Gram et al., 2009](#)), and two studies to men ([Doll et al., 2005](#); [Yun et al., 2005](#); [Akhter et al., 2007](#)). One study reported both colorectal incidence and mortality ([Limburg et al., 2003](#)) and three studies only reported colorectal cancer mortality ([Doll et al., 2005](#); [Huxley, 2007a](#); [Batty et al., 2008](#); [Kenfield et al., 2008](#)).

#### (a) Smoking status

Virtually all studies reported elevated risk associated with smoking, although results were not always statistically significant. The largest meta-analysis based on 36 prospective studies

with data from a total of 3007002 subjects found that compared to never smokers, current smokers had a 15% significantly higher risk of developing colorectal cancer and 27% significantly higher risk of colorectal cancer mortality (Liang *et al.*, 2009; Table 2.43 available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-01-Table2.43.pdf>). In former smokers, colorectal cancer risk was also significantly elevated by 20% whereas colorectal cancer mortality was non-significantly increased by 20%. The risk estimates were not significantly different between colon and rectal cancer for current smokers (RR, 1.10 versus 1.19) and for former smokers (RR, 1.10 versus 1.20). There was no heterogeneity among colorectal cancer studies and no evidence for publication bias. Comparable risk elevations in current and former smokers were found in the other meta-analyses. For current smokers, the risk for colorectal cancer increased significantly by 16% when using data from 22 cohort studies (Huxley *et al.*, 2009), by 20% based on 28 cohort studies (Tsoi *et al.*, 2009), and by 7% based on data from 45 cohort and case-control studies (Botteri *et al.*, 2008a). In the latter meta-analysis a 17% significantly higher risk of colorectal cancer in former smokers was found.

#### (b) Intensity of smoking

All but three of the recent 21 cohort studies (van der Hel *et al.*, 2003a; Jee *et al.*, 2004; Sanjoaquin *et al.*, 2004) investigated dose-response relationships, using at least one of number of cigarettes smoked, duration of smoking, pack-years of smoking, age at smoking initiation, time since smoking cessation. In two further studies (Tiemersma *et al.*, 2002a; Batty *et al.*, 2008) these parameters were examined separately in current and former smokers, as by Chao *et al.* (2000). Statistically significant dose-response trends with amount smoked daily were reported for colorectal cancer (Lüchtenborg *et al.*, 2005a; Akhter *et al.*, 2007; Paskett *et al.*, 2007; Kenfield *et al.*, 2008), for colon cancer (Paskett

*et al.*, 2007), and for rectal cancer (Paskett *et al.*, 2007; Tsong *et al.*, 2007). The dose-response of daily cigarette consumption and colorectal cancer was assessed in two meta-analyses (Liang *et al.*, 2009; Tsoi *et al.*, 2009) and both found statistically significant relationships. Based on eleven studies, Liang *et al.* (2009) found that risk for colorectal cancer increased significantly by 17% with an increase of 20 cigarettes/day and by 38% with an increase of 40 cigarettes/day, while colorectal cancer mortality increased by 41% and 98%, respectively (Table 2.43 online). The risk elevation associated with an increase of 20 cigarettes/day was greater for rectal than for colon cancer (13% versus 3%) but this difference was not statistically significant.

#### (c) Duration of smoking

In addition to two previously reported studies (Hsing *et al.*, 1998; Chao *et al.*, 2000), thirteen studies have examined duration of smoking and colorectal cancer risk. A statistically significant trend of increasing risk with increasing duration was found for colorectal (Limburg *et al.*, 2003; Kim *et al.*, 2006; Paskett *et al.*, 2007; Gram *et al.*, 2009), for colon cancer (Paskett *et al.*, 2007) and for rectal cancer (Terry *et al.*, 2002a; Paskett *et al.*, 2007; Tsong *et al.*, 2007). In one study, increasing duration of smoking was significantly associated with risk for colorectal cancer solely in former smokers (Tiemersma *et al.*, 2002a). Based on eight studies (Terry *et al.*, 2002a; Tiemersma *et al.*, 2002a; Limburg *et al.*, 2003; Lüchtenborg *et al.*, 2005a; Kim *et al.*, 2006; Akhter *et al.*, 2007; Paskett *et al.*, 2007; Tsong *et al.*, 2007), a meta-analysis for duration of smoking and colorectal cancer incidence yielded highly significant results (Liang *et al.*, 2009). Risk was increased by 9.4% with a 20-year increase in smoking duration and 19.7% with a 40-year increase. Smoking duration was also significantly associated with risk for rectal cancer but not for colon cancer. In another meta-analysis where dose-response relationship was modelled, a nonlinear increase in risk with



increasing duration was observed ([Botteri et al., 2008a](#)). The risk started to increase after approximately 10 years of smoking and reached statistical significance after 30 years.

#### (d) *Pack-years*

Since the previous *IARC Monograph*, the association of colorectal cancer with pack-years of cigarette smoking has been evaluated in six studies ([Limburg et al., 2003](#); [Otani et al., 2003](#); [Shimizu et al., 2003](#); [Wakai et al., 2003](#); [Kim et al., 2006](#); [Gram et al., 2009](#)). In addition to the previously reported significant results ([Giovannucci et al., 1994](#); [Heineman et al., 1994](#); [Chao et al., 2000](#); [Stürmer et al., 2000](#)), a statistically significant trend of increasing risk with increasing pack-years was found for colorectal cancer in two studies ([Limburg et al., 2003](#); [Gram et al., 2009](#)), and for colon cancer in one study ([Gram et al., 2009](#)). In their dose-response analysis of pack-years and colorectal incidence, [Liang et al. \(2009\)](#) included five studies ([Giovannucci et al., 1994](#); [Stürmer et al., 2000](#); [Limburg et al., 2003](#); [Otani et al., 2003](#); [Kim et al., 2006](#)) and found a statistically significant trend of increasing risk with increasing pack-years of smoking for colorectal cancer but not specifically for colon or rectal cancer. Risk for colorectal cancer increased by 27% for an increase of 35 pack-years and by 50% for an increase of 60 pack-years.

#### (e) *Age at initiation*

In nine of the cohort studies the age at smoking initiation in relation to colorectal cancer (eight studies) or colon and rectal cancer (four studies) was investigated. In four studies a statistically significant trend of increasing risk with decreasing age at initiation of smoking for colorectal cancer was found ([Limburg et al., 2003](#); [Kim et al., 2006](#); [Akhter et al., 2007](#); [Gram et al., 2009](#)) and for colon cancer ([Gram et al., 2009](#)) and rectal cancer ([Tsong et al., 2007](#)). In one meta-analysis ([Liang et al., 2009](#)), a highly significant association was found for age at

smoking initiation and colorectal cancer incidence based on six studies ([Limburg et al., 2003](#); [Kim et al., 2006](#); [Akhter et al., 2007](#); [Paskett et al., 2007](#); [Tsong et al., 2007](#); [Gram et al., 2009](#)). Risk for colorectal cancer was reduced by 2.2% for a 5-year delay in smoking initiation and by 4.4% for a 10-year delay.

#### (f) *Smoking cessation*

The effect of smoking cessation by years since stopping was assessed in seven studies, six for colorectal cancer ([Tiemersma et al., 2002a](#); [Lüchtenborg et al., 2005a, 2007](#); [Paskett et al., 2007](#); [Kenfield et al., 2008](#); [Gram et al., 2009](#); [Hannan et al., 2009](#)) and three for colon and/or rectal cancer ([Wakai et al., 2003](#); [Paskett et al., 2007](#); [Gram et al., 2009](#)). In one study a statistically significant trend in risk reduction with years since quitting was found both overall as well as separately for men and for women ([Hannan et al., 2009](#)).

#### (g) *Population characteristics*

It has been suggested that the association between smoking and colorectal cancer may be stronger in men than in women. In the three recent cohort studies reporting sex-specific results ([Shimizu et al., 2003](#); [Wakai et al., 2003](#); [Colangelo et al., 2004](#)), this was only observed in studies in Japan ([Shimizu et al., 2003](#); [Wakai et al., 2003](#)), but could be attributed to the very low prevalence of smoking in women. The studies restricted to women have generally shown associations with cigarette smoking that were of comparable magnitude to those observed in men ([Terry et al., 2002a](#); [Limburg et al., 2003](#); [van der Hel et al., 2003a](#); [Paskett et al., 2007](#); [Kenfield et al., 2008](#); [Gram et al., 2009](#)).

Recent studies have been carried out either in Europe and in USA, with predominantly Caucasian study subjects, or in Asia, mostly in Japan and in the Republic of Korea. The results from these studies suggest no differences in the association between tobacco smoking and

colorectal cancer between different ethnic groups.

#### (h) *Subsites*

Smoking and risks for colon cancer and for rectal cancer were investigated in eleven of the 21 additional studies. Risk patterns are generally consistent between colon and rectal cancer ([Otani et al., 2003](#); [van der Hel et al., 2003a](#); [Wakai et al., 2003](#); [Jee et al., 2004](#); [Yun et al., 2005](#); [Batty et al., 2008](#)). In some studies, dose-response relationships were stronger for rectal cancer than for colon cancer ([Terry et al., 2002a](#); [Paskett et al., 2007](#)) or were statistically significant only for rectal cancer ([Shimizu et al., 2003](#); [Doll et al., 2005](#); [Tsong et al., 2007](#)). In a meta-analysis ([Liang et al., 2009](#)) the association was stronger for rectal cancer than for colon cancer in the subset of cohort studies that differentiated cancer by site. Most dose-response variables were not associated with colon cancer incidence whereas associations were stronger for rectal cancer incidence and statistically significant with longer duration of smoking, albeit based only on a small number of studies. In one cohort study the increased risk associated with smoking was more apparent for proximal than for distal colon cancer ([Lüchtenborg et al., 2005a](#)), which was not found in an earlier study ([Heineman et al., 1994](#)).

#### (i) *Confounding and effect modification*

Smokers have been shown to be more likely than non-smokers to be physically inactive, to use alcohol, to have lower consumption of fruits and vegetables and higher consumption of fat and meat, and they are less likely to be screened for colorectal cancer ([Le Marchand et al., 1997](#); [Ghadirian et al., 1998](#); [Nkondjock & Ghadirian, 2004](#); [Reid et al., 2006b](#); [Mutch et al., 2009](#)).

Few potential confounders were considered in the cohort studies evaluated in the previous IARC Monograph ([IARC, 2004a](#)). Of the cohort studies published since, all except three ([van der Hel et al., 2003a](#); [Jee et al., 2004](#); [Doll et al., 2005](#))

considered two or more potential confounders. In eleven of the recent studies adjustments were made for physical activity, alcohol consumption, overweight/obesity ([Terry et al., 2002a](#); [Limburg et al., 2003](#); [Otani et al., 2003](#); [Wakai et al., 2003](#); [Yun et al., 2005](#); [Akhter et al., 2007](#); [Ashktorab et al., 2007](#); [Paskett et al., 2007](#); [Tsong et al., 2007](#); [Kenfield et al., 2008](#); [Hannan et al., 2009](#)), and seven also adjusted for dietary habits (e.g. intake of fruits and vegetables, dietary fibres, fat, red meat). Among the studies with the latter adjustments, eight ([Giovannucci et al., 1994](#); [Chao et al., 2000](#); [Stürmer et al., 2000](#); [Limburg et al., 2003](#); [Yun et al., 2005](#); [Akhter et al., 2007](#); [Paskett et al., 2007](#); [Hannan et al., 2009](#)) found significant dose-response relationships with at least one of the smoking variables. In two studies a significant association of smoking with colorectal cancer risk was observed after accounting for history of colonoscopy ([Paskett et al., 2007](#); [Hannan et al., 2009](#)). Risk factors in multivariable analyses in several studies were level of education, use of menopausal hormone therapy, family history and regular aspirin use. The association between smoking and colorectal cancer was not modified by these other characteristics, or by alcohol consumption in two studies ([Otani et al., 2003](#); [Tsong et al., 2007](#)). Therefore, confounding factors do not seem to affect the observed significant increase in risk for colorectal cancer associated with tobacco smoking and the dose-response relationships with smoking variables.

When considering other types of smoking, it is generally found that cigar and pipe smoking are less associated with socioeconomic class and other life-style habits than cigarette smoking. Therefore, it is logical to assume that, for these types of smoking, risk associations derived from epidemiologic studies may be less prone to potential confounding. In all the cohort studies reviewed in the previous IARC Monograph ([IARC, 2004a](#)) an elevated, though not always statistically significant, risk was consistently reported for cancers of the colon and the rectum

associated with exclusive pipe and/or cigar smoking.

Infection with JC virus has been proposed as a potential risk factor for colon cancer ([Rollison et al., 2009](#)) but results still need further validation.

Three cohort studies assessed possible modifying effects by genetic susceptibility. Rapid acetylator phenotype (as determined by polymorphisms of the *NAT2* gene involved in metabolism of heterocyclic aromatic amines) was found to increase the risk for colorectal cancer in smokers, in one ([van der Hel et al., 2003a](#)) but not in another study ([Tiemersma et al., 2002a](#)). For genes involved in the metabolism of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons such as *GSTM1* or *GSTT1*, no statistical contribution to the risk of colorectal cancer associated with smoking was observed ([Tiemersma et al., 2002a](#); [Lüchtenborg et al., 2005a](#)).

### 2.6.3 Case-control studies

Thirty-one case-control studies were included in the previous *IARC Monograph* ([IARC, 2004a](#)). Although results were inconsistent with respect to risk association in ever versus former and current smokers, a dose-response relationship with smoking variables was found in some studies. Since then, seventeen case-control studies investigating the association between tobacco smoke and colorectal cancer risk have been published, seven carried out in Asia, four in Europe, five in North America and one in Hawaii (Table 2.44 available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-01-Table2.44.pdf>). Six studies reported solely for colorectal cancer ([Ateş et al., 2005](#); [Chia et al., 2006](#); [Verla-Tebit et al., 2006](#); [Lüchtenborg et al., 2007](#); [Steinmetz et al., 2007](#); [Wu et al., 2009b](#)), four separately for colon and rectal cancer ([Ji et al., 2002](#); [Sharpe et al., 2002](#); [Minami & Tateno, 2003](#); [Goy et al., 2008](#)), two for colorectal cancer as well as for colon and rectal cancer ([Ho et al., 2004](#); [Gao](#)

[et al., 2007](#); [Wei et al., 2009](#)), three for colon cancer only ([Diergaarde et al., 2003](#); [Kim et al., 2003](#); [Hu et al., 2007](#)) and one for rectal cancer only ([Slattery et al., 2003](#)). Nine of the studies reported risk estimates separately for men and for women.

#### (a) Smoking status

Most case-control studies considered the effects of current and former smoking separately. A positive association between smoking and colorectal cancer was found in virtually all the studies, although the results were generally not statistically significant. Statistically significant increased risk was reported in current smokers for colorectal cancer ([Chia et al., 2006](#); [Wu et al., 2009b](#)), for rectal cancer ([Slattery et al., 2003](#); [Ho et al., 2004](#)), and in former smokers for colorectal cancer both in men and women combined ([Chia et al., 2006](#)) and in women only ([Lüchtenborg et al., 2007](#)). Five studies, which did not focus on the main effects of smoking, only evaluated risks for ever smoking ([Diergaarde et al., 2003](#); [Kim et al., 2003](#); [Ateş et al., 2005](#); [Gao et al., 2007](#); [Hu et al., 2007](#)); none of these reported significant risk estimates.

#### (b) Intensity of smoking

Nine case-control studies investigated dose-response relationships considering at least one smoking variable. Number of cigarettes smoked daily was evaluated in seven studies, three for colorectal cancer ([Verla-Tebit et al., 2006](#); [Lüchtenborg et al., 2007](#); [Wu et al., 2009b](#)), two for colon and rectal cancer ([Ji et al., 2002](#); [Minami & Tateno, 2003](#)), one for rectal cancer ([Slattery et al., 2003](#)) and one for colorectal cancer and both subsites ([Ho et al., 2004](#)). Statistically significant positive trends of increasing risk with increasing number of cigarettes smoked daily were found for colorectal cancer in only one study ([Wu et al., 2009b](#)).

(c) *Duration of smoking, pack-years, age at initiation, smoking cessation*

Duration of smoking was examined in several studies in relation to colorectal cancer ([Ho et al., 2004](#); [Chia et al., 2006](#); [Verla-Tebit et al., 2006](#); [Lüchtenborg et al., 2007](#); [Wu et al., 2009b](#)) and/or to colorectal cancer by subsite ([Ji et al., 2002](#); [Minami & Tateno, 2003](#); [Ho et al., 2004](#)). A statistically significant trend with increasing number of years smoked was found in two of the five studies of colorectal cancer ([Chia et al., 2006](#); [Wu et al., 2009b](#)). In one study, increasing duration of smoking was significantly associated with risk for rectal cancer in ever smokers but not in current smokers ([Ho et al., 2004](#)). In only one earlier case-control study was a significant association in ever smokers with increasing number of years of smoking for colon as well as rectal cancer found ([Newcomb et al., 1995](#)).

Duration of smoking exposure was assessed by pack-years of smoking in seven studies ([Ji et al., 2002](#); [Slattery et al., 2003](#); [Chia et al., 2006](#); [Verla-Tebit et al., 2006](#); [Lüchtenborg et al., 2007](#); [Goy et al., 2008](#); [Wu et al., 2009b](#)) and by age at smoking initiation in three studies ([Ji et al., 2002](#); [Slattery et al., 2003](#); [Wu et al., 2009b](#)). All four studies that evaluated pack-years of smoking with respect to colorectal cancer risk found statistically significant associations. Two studies found a significant association with increasing pack-years in men and women combined; when investigated separately, the increasing trend was statistically significant only in women ([Verla-Tebit et al., 2006](#)) or only in men ([Wu et al., 2009b](#)). In one study a statistically significant trend with pack-years of smoking in both men and women was found only with non-filtered cigarettes ([Lüchtenborg et al., 2007](#)); the relative risk was significant for colon as well as rectal cancer and was greater for rectal cancer.

In two studies a non-significant trend of decreasing risk with increasing time since

stopped smoking was found ([Verla-Tebit et al., 2006](#); [Lüchtenborg et al., 2007](#)).

(d) *Subsites and molecular subtypes*

A stronger association between tobacco smoking and rectal cancer compared with colon cancer has generally been observed in the studies that reported risk estimates by cancer site. In a recent meta-analysis including both cohort and case-control studies, higher smoking-related risk estimates for rectal cancer were found than for proximal and distal colon cancer ([Botteri et al., 2008a](#)). Stronger relative risk in ever smokers, but not in current smokers, was found for proximal compared to distal tumours in one recent study ([Hu et al., 2007](#)).

Colorectal cancer is a multipathway disease. A molecular approach to its classification utilizes: (1) the type of genetic instability, specifically microsatellite instability, and (2) the presence of DNA methylation or the CpG island methylator phenotype (CIMP) ([Jass, 2007](#)). Smoking has been associated with microsatellite instability in sporadic colon cancer. Higher risk for microsatellite-unstable than for microsatellite-stable tumours was found in four studies ([Slattery et al., 2000](#); [Yang et al., 2000](#); [Chia et al., 2006](#); [Campbell et al., 2009](#)). The observed twofold risk elevation for colorectal cancer showing microsatellite instability is similar in order of magnitude to that found for colorectal polyps. In only one small study similar risk estimates for stable and unstable tumours were found ([Diergaarde et al., 2003](#)). Microsatellite instability is characteristic of hereditary nonpolyposis colorectal cancer syndrome and smoking has been associated with colorectal cancer in patients with this syndrome ([Watson et al., 2004](#); [Diergaarde et al., 2007](#)). Among sporadic colorectal tumours with microsatellite instability, about 11–28% carry somatic genetic mutations. In addition, the association of colon cancer with smoking was increased two to threefold when widespread CIMP and/or *BRAF* mutation, irrespective of microsatellite instability



status, was present ([Samowitz et al., 2006](#)). These data indicate that the association with MSI-high tumours may be attributed to the association of smoking with CIMP and *BRAF* mutation.

#### (e) *Effect modification*

Effect modification by genetic polymorphisms in enzymes metabolizing tobacco smoke constituents could provide further evidence for a causal association between smoking and colorectal cancer. Most studies that have investigated modification of colorectal cancer risk associated with smoking by genetic polymorphisms of xenobiotic enzymes were too small to be informative ([Inoue et al., 2000](#); [Smits et al., 2003](#); [Jin et al., 2005](#); [Tranah et al., 2005](#); [van den Donk et al., 2005](#); [Tijhuis et al., 2008](#)). Studies on the possible differential effect by acetylation status have reported stronger association of tobacco smoking (in terms of pack-years) with colorectal cancer risk in slow acetylators phenotypes ([Lilla et al., 2006](#)), and with rectal cancer in rapid acetylators phenotypes ([Curtin et al., 2009](#)). Furthermore, *CYP1A1* and *GSTM1* variant alleles were found to greatly affect colon cancer or rectal cancer risk in smokers ([Slattery et al., 2004](#)).

### 2.6.4 Colorectal polyps

Colorectal adenomas and possibly some hyperplastic polyps are considered precursors of colorectal cancer. The epidemiologic evidence on the relationship between cigarette smoking and colorectal polyps has been generally consistent. Since the previous *IARC Monograph* ([IARC, 2004a](#)), twelve further independent studies have investigated this association (Table 2.45 available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-01-Table2.45.pdf>). All studies found a significantly increased risk for polyps in association with one or more smoking variables. A recent meta-analysis including 42 studies reported a statistically significant positive association between smoking and colorectal adenomas

([Botteri et al., 2008b](#)). The meta-analysis, which included several studies that did not explicitly report relative risks for tobacco smoking ([Cardoso et al., 2002](#); [Voskuil et al., 2002](#); [Sparks et al., 2004](#); [Gong et al., 2005](#); [Jiang et al., 2005](#); [Kim et al., 2005](#); [Mitrou et al., 2006](#); [Otani et al., 2006](#); [Skjelbred et al., 2006](#)), found a twofold risk elevation for colorectal adenomas in current smokers and a 50% increase in former smokers. The association had been previously found to be equally strong in men and women. In one of two recent studies, there was no difference in the results for men and women separately ([Tranah et al., 2004](#)) but significantly greater effects in women were found in the other ([Hermann et al., 2009](#)).

Significant positive trends with number of cigarettes per day were found in four ([Ji et al., 2006](#); [Larsen et al., 2006](#); [Stern et al., 2006](#); [Shrubsole et al., 2008](#)) of five studies ([Tiemersma et al., 2004](#)). Dose-response with duration of smoking was assessed in four studies ([Ji et al., 2002](#); [Tiemersma et al., 2004](#); [Stern et al., 2006](#); [Shrubsole et al., 2008](#)) and with pack-years of smoking in five studies ([Hoshiyama et al., 2000](#); [Ulrich et al., 2001](#); [Tranah et al., 2004](#); [Ji et al., 2006](#); [Shrubsole et al., 2008](#); [Omata et al., 2009](#)). All nine studies found statistically significant trends, which were consistent with those for adenomas and hyperplastic polyps when reported separately ([Ulrich et al., 2001](#); [Ji et al., 2006](#); [Shrubsole et al., 2008](#)). Ever smokers were estimated to have a 13% (95%CI: 9–18%) increasing risk of presenting with adenomatous polyps for every additional 10 pack-years smoked in comparison to never smokers, based on data from 19 studies ([Botteri et al., 2008b](#)).

Decreasing risks with years since quitting smoking were found in four studies ([Ulrich et al., 2001](#); [Tiemersma et al., 2004](#); [Ji et al., 2006](#); [Shrubsole et al., 2008](#)), statistically significant so in the latter three studies. In comparison to never smokers, former smokers retained moderately elevated risk for colorectal polyps even 20

years after quitting smoking. One study examined both dose metrics (cigarettes per day, duration, and pack-years) and recency of tobacco use: in subjects who had quit smoking for at least 20 years, only the heaviest users of tobacco still had modest excess risks ([Ji et al., 2006](#)).

It has been proposed that the association between cigarette smoking and polyps may be stronger with non-progressing adenomas, such as those that are smaller and less villous but the hypothesis is not supported in most studies ([Anderson et al., 2003](#); [Toyomura et al., 2004](#); [Ji et al., 2006](#); [Skjelbred et al., 2006](#)). In one study a clearly higher risk for large and multiple adenomas in every anatomic site of the colon was found in a dose-response manner ([Toyomura et al., 2004](#)). A meta-analysis found that the combined risk estimate for high-risk adenomas associated with smoking was greater than that for low-risk adenomas and that the difference was statistically significant for current smokers but not former smokers ([Botteri et al., 2008b](#)). In addition, a stronger association of smoking with hyperplastic polyps than with adenomas was found in some studies ([Ulrich et al., 2001](#); [Ji et al., 2006](#); [Shrubsole et al., 2008](#)) but not in another ([Erhardt et al., 2002](#)). The risk associated with smoking may be even higher in subjects presenting with concurrent benign hyperplastic and adenomatous polyps ([Ji et al., 2006](#); [Shrubsole et al., 2008](#)).

Relative risk estimates for tobacco smoking and polyps generally range between 2 and 3 whereas those for colorectal cancer range between 1.2 and 1.4. One possible explanation is the effect dilution due to the inclusion of a high proportion of individuals with precursor lesions in the unscreened control groups in most colorectal cancer studies ([Terry & Neugut, 1998](#)). Some indirect evidence for this hypothesis is provided by the meta-analysis of colorectal adenomas, which showed that the smoking-associated risk for adenomas was significantly higher in studies including subjects who had undergone complete

colonoscopy in comparison to those in which some or all controls had undergone incomplete examination (i.e. only sigmoidoscopy) ([Abrams et al., 2008](#); [Botteri et al., 2008b](#)).

It is also possible that smoking is associated with a subset of colorectal cancers so that relative risk estimates for colorectal cancer as a whole are diluted. The pattern of risk observed for colorectal cancer by microsatellite instability status and for type of colorectal polyps suggests that the traditional (non-serrated) adenoma-carcinoma sequence may proceed through a hyperplastic polyps-mixed polyps-serrated adenoma progression and that smoking may be more strongly related to the development of these subtypes ([Jass et al., 2000](#); [Hawkins & Ward, 2001](#)). More recently, a *BRAF* mutation was shown to be a specific marker for the serrated polyp neoplasia pathway originating from a hyperplastic polyp, in which the CIMP-high develops early and the microsatellite instability carcinoma develops late ([O'Brien et al., 2006](#)). The findings of strong associations between smoking and colon cancer with CIMP and/or *BRAF* mutation, irrespective of microsatellite status, are compatible with this observation ([Samowitz et al., 2006](#)).

## 2.7 Hepatocellular carcinoma

### 2.7.1 Overview of studies

In the previous *IARC Monograph* ([IARC, 2004a](#)), a causal relationship between liver cancer (hepatocellular carcinoma) and smoking was established. Two case-control and one cohort studies have been published since (Table 2.46 available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-01-Table2.46.pdf>). Overall, most cohort studies and the largest case-control studies, most notably those that included community controls, showed a moderate association between tobacco smoking and risk for hepatocellular carcinoma.



Confounding from alcohol has been addressed in the best studies. The association between alcohol drinking and hepatocellular carcinoma is strong, and alcohol intake is frequently misclassified, leading to potential residual confounding. However an association with smoking has been demonstrated also among non-drinkers.

A meta-analysis was based on 38 cohort studies and 58 case-control studies ([Lee et al., 2009](#)). Compared to never smokers, the meta-relative risks adjusted for appropriate confounders were 1.51 (95%CI: 1.37–1.67) for current smokers and 1.12 (0.78–1.60) for former smokers. The increased liver cancer risk among current smokers appeared to be consistent in strata of different regions, study designs, study sample sizes, and publication periods. The association with smoking was observed in non-alcohol-drinkers (RR, 1.34; 95%CI: 0.92–1.94 in men and 1.31; 95%CI: 0.70–2.44 in women). Further supportive evidence is provided by the association between smoking and liver cancer observed among Chinese women and Japanese women, in whom alcohol drinking is extremely rare ([Li et al., 2011](#)). One difficulty is that sometimes studies do not specify the histology of liver cancer (hepatocellular versus intra-hepatic biliary tract).

In the update of the Whitehall study ([Batty et al., 2008](#)) (a cohort of 17363 government employees in London, followed-up for 38 years), the hazard ratio for death from liver cancer was 1.03 (0.49–2.16) in former smokers and 1.43 (0.69–2.95) in current smokers (based on 57 deaths). In the 50-year follow-up of the British doctors cohort ([Doll et al., 2005](#)), there were 74 deaths from liver cancer. Death rates per 100000 per year were 4.4 in never smokers, 10.7 in smokers of 1–14 cigarettes/day, 2.6 in smokers of 15–24 cigarettes/day, and 31.3 in smokers of  $\geq 25$  cigarettes/day.

## 2.7.2 Factors affecting risks

### (a) Dose-response relationship

Most studies, including the recent ones (Table 2.46 online), show a dose-response relationship with the number of cigarettes smoked and with smoking duration, with exceptions such as [Franceschi et al. \(2006\)](#) and some older studies from Asia. Relative risk estimates increased to 2.0 after 20 years of smoking.

### (b) Cessation

Though former smokers tend to have lower relative risks than current smokers, there were no consistent patterns of risks after cessation, including in the recent studies (Table 2.46 online).

## 2.7.3 Interaction with hepatitis B or C

Infection with hepatitis B virus (HBV) is one of the major causes of liver cancer worldwide, whereas hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection causes a large fraction of liver cancer in Japan, Northern Africa and southern Europe. While many studies, most notably from Asia, have found no attenuation of the association between smoking and liver cancer after adjustment/stratification for markers of HBV or HCV infection, an apparent interaction between smoking and HBV or HCV infection has been reported. The increase in risk for liver cancer associated with cigarette smoking appears to be greater among HBV carriers than among uninfected persons in some studies ([Tu et al., 1985](#)), but not in others ([Kuper et al., 2000a](#)). Two recent reports ([Franceschi et al., 2006](#); [Hassan et al., 2008a](#)) studied possible interactions between smoking and hepatitis virus infection and both reported an apparent interaction between smoking and hepatitis C infection. Interactions between smoking and hepatitis B infection were not found among men in one study ([Hassan et al., 2008a](#)) and the rarity of HBsAg prevented the evaluation of HBV and smoking in the other ([Franceschi et al., 2006](#);

Table 2.46 online). In the meta-analysis by [Lee et al. \(2009\)](#) adjustment for HBV reduced the relative risks in both men and women, while adjustment for HCV did not change the risk in women and increased it in men.

## 2.8 Renal cell carcinoma

### 2.8.1 Overview of studies

The previous *IARC Monograph* ([IARC, 2004a](#)) concluded that renal-cell carcinoma is associated with tobacco smoking in both men and women. Four case-control studies and no cohort studies have become available since then (Table 2.47 available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-01-Table2.47.pdf>). Overall these confirm the previous evidence, though with some conflicting results. In particular, both the study by [Hu et al. \(2005\)](#) in Canada and the multicentre European study by [Brennan et al. \(2008\)](#) do not show a clear effect of smoking. In contrast, the study by [Theis et al. \(2008\)](#) shows an increased risk with smoking duration (irregular, levelling-off after 40 years) and a statistically significant dose-response relationship with pack-years.

In the update of the Whitehall study ([Batty et al., 2008](#)) (a cohort of 17363 government employees in London, followed for 38 years), the hazard ratio for deaths from kidney cancer was 0.64 (0.32–1.26) for former smokers, and 1.29 (0.69–2.41) for current smokers (based on 68 deaths). In the 50-year follow-up of the British doctor cohort ([Doll et al., 2005](#)) there were 140 deaths from kidney cancer. Mortality rates per 100000 per year were 9.3 in never smokers, 16.4 in smokers of 1–14 cigarettes/day, 16.6 in smokers of 15–24 cigarettes/day, and 15.5 in smokers of  $\geq 25$  cigarettes/day (age-adjusted).

[Hunt et al. \(2005\)](#) performed a meta-analysis based on 19 case-control studies and 5 cohort studies (total 8032 cases in case-control and 1326 in cohort studies). The relative risk for smoking

men was 1.54 (1.42–1.68), and for smoking women was 1.22 (1.09–1.36). A dose-response relationship was found in both men and women. The association observed was more convincing in population-based compared to hospital-based studies.

### 2.8.2 Confounding

Hypertension is a well established risk factor for kidney cancer but the association with smoking is only indirect. Potential confounding from hypertension was considered only by [Brennan et al. \(2008\)](#).

Other potential confounders such as BMI have been appropriately addressed in most studies.

### 2.8.3 Cessation

Most studies reviewed in the previous *Monograph* showed a lower risk for former smokers compared to current smokers, with a significant negative trend with increasing number of years since quitting ([IARC, 2004a](#)). In case-control study on smoking cessation and renal-cell carcinoma, the decrease in risk became significant only after 30 years of quitting ([Parker et al., 2003](#)). In the meta-analysis ([Hunt et al., 2005](#)), former smokers were at reduced risk after 10 years or more of quitting. A clear decline in risk after cessation was also reported by [Theis et al. \(2008\)](#). [The Working Group noted the poor quality of the study, considering the low response rate among controls.]

## 2.9 Cancer of the lower urinary tract (including cancer of the bladder, ureter, and renal pelvis)

### 2.9.1 Overview of studies

The previous *IARC Monograph* ([IARC, 2004a](#)) clearly identified a causal relationship of smoking with transitional-cell carcinomas and squamous-cell carcinomas of the bladder, ureter and renal pelvis both in men and women. Two new case-control studies ([Cao et al., 2005](#); [Samanic et al., 2006](#); Table 2.48 available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-01-Table2.48.pdf>) and two cohort studies ([Bjerregaard et al., 2006](#); [Alberg et al., 2007](#); Table 2.49 available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-01-Table2.49.pdf>) have been reported since then in addition to updates of cohort studies with longer follow-up.

In the update of the Whitehall study ([Batty et al., 2008](#)) (a cohort of 17363 government employees in London, followed-up for 38 years), the hazard ratio for death from bladder cancer was 0.98 (0.62–1.54) in former smokers and 1.66 (1.06–2.59) in current smokers (based on 164 deaths). In the 50-year follow-up of the British doctors cohort ([Doll et al., 2005](#)), there were 220 deaths from bladder cancer. Death rates per 100000 per year were 13.7 in never smokers, 37.7 in smokers of 1–14 cigarettes/day, 31.8 in smokers of 15–24 cigarettes/day, and 51.4 in smokers of  $\geq 25$  cigarettes/day. All the new studies confirm the existence of a dose-response relationship with the number of cigarettes smoked and with duration, and a decline in relative risk with time since quitting smoking, compared to non-quitters.

### 2.9.2 Types of tobacco

The risk of lower urinary tract cancer was more strongly associated with smoking air-cured (black) tobacco than smoking flue-cured

(blond) tobacco in several studies ([IARC, 2004a](#)). The stronger association with air-cured (black) than blond tobacco among current smokers has not been clearly confirmed in a re-analysis of the Spanish multicentre case-control study ([Samanic et al., 2006](#)). Relative risks in current smokers were 7.3 (4.9–10.9) in black tobacco smokers and 5.8 (3.4–10.0) in blond tobacco smokers; in former smokers, 4.2 (2.9–6.0) for black tobacco and 1.8 (1.0–3.2) for blond tobacco (Table 2.48 online). The effect of cessation was more pronounced in blond tobacco smokers than in black tobacco smokers, suggesting potentially different mechanisms of action of the two types of tobacco. Air-cured (black) tobacco is richer in arylamines.

### 2.9.3 Gene-environment interactions

A large number of studies have considered gene-environment interactions between tobacco smoking and genetic polymorphisms, including DNA repair genes ([Vineis et al., 2009](#)) and genes involved in carcinogen metabolism ([Malats, 2008](#); [Dong et al., 2008](#)). Overall, there is evidence that the slow acetylator variant of the *NAT2* gene is involved in bladder carcinogenesis and may interact with smoking. The meta-relative risk for *NAT2* slow acetylator and bladder cancer was 1.46 (95%CI: 1.26–1.68;  $P = 2.5 \times 10^{-7}$ ), based on 36 studies and 5747 cases ([Dong et al., 2008](#)). Similar but weaker evidence has been provided for *GSTM1* ([Malats, 2008](#)).

The extent of interaction between *NAT2* variants and smoking is still unclear. In one study the *NAT2* acetylation status was found to modulate the association of bladder cancer and cigarette smoking through smoking intensity and not smoking duration ([Lubin et al., 2007](#)). Studies are not consistent concerning the three-way association between smoking intensity, *NAT2* and bladder cancer. Some studies found greater effects at a lower level of exposure and others the opposite ([Malats, 2008](#)). Genome-wide

association studies have indicated 8q24 as a region that may confer high risk for bladder cancer ([Kiemenev et al., 2008](#)).

## 2.10 Myeloid leukaemia (acute and chronic)

Myeloid leukaemia in adults was observed to be causally related to cigarette smoking in the previous *IARC Monograph* ([IARC, 2004a](#)). Risk increased with amount of tobacco smoked in a substantial number of adequate studies, with evidence of a dose–response relationship. Biological plausibility for a causal relationship of smoking with myeloid leukaemia is provided by the finding of known leukaemogens in tobacco smoke, one of which (benzene) is present in relatively large amounts. No evidence was found for an association with acute lymphocytic leukaemia.

One recently published cohort study included information on acute and chronic myeloid leukaemias ([Fernberg et al., 2007](#)), based on 372 incident cases. A weak association was found between acute myeloid leukaemia and intensity of smoking, and a statistically significant association with current smoking (RR, 1.5; 95%CI: 1.06–2.11). No association was found with chronic myeloid leukaemia.

In the update of the Whitehall study ([Batty et al., 2008](#)) (a cohort of 17363 government employees in London, followed-up for 38 years), the hazard ratio for mortality from myeloid leukaemias (acute plus chronic) was 5.08 (95%CI: 1.78–14.5) for current smokers, and 3.84 (95%CI: 1.35–11.0) for former smokers (based on 66 deaths). In the 50-year follow-up of the British doctors cohort ([Doll et al., 2005](#)), there were 100 deaths from myeloid leukaemias. The mortality rates per 100000 per year were 6.3 in never smokers, 2.8 in smokers of 1–14 cigarettes/day, 14.0 in smokers of 15–24, and 18.3 in smokers of  $\geq 25$  cigarettes/day (age-adjusted).

## 2.11 Other leukaemias and lymphomas

### 2.11.1 Non-Hodgkin lymphoma

Six cohort studies have been published on the association between non-Hodgkin lymphoma and smoking, all reviewed in the previous *IARC Monograph* ([IARC, 2004a](#)). In five of these, no increased risk among smokers was evident ([Doll et al., 1994](#); [McLaughlin et al., 1995](#); [Adami et al., 1998](#); [Herrinton & Friedman, 1998](#); [Parker et al., 2000](#)). However, in one study, men who had ever smoked cigarettes had a twofold increase in risk for non-Hodgkin lymphoma, and the risk was still higher among the heaviest smokers ([Linnet et al., 1992](#)). Data from case–control studies generally also fail to support an effect of smoking on the incidence of non-Hodgkin lymphoma ([Peach & Barnett, 2001](#); [Stagnaro et al., 2001](#); [Schöllkopf et al., 2005](#); [Bracci & Holly, 2005](#); Table 2.50 available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-01-Table2.50.pdf>). Reanalysis of data of an Italian study ([Stagnaro et al., 2004](#)) found a statistically significant association (OR, 1.4; 95%CI: 1.1–1.7) for blond tobacco exposure and non-Hodgkin lymphoma risk.

Three studies and a pooled analysis have examined histological subtypes of non-Hodgkin lymphoma. In one cohort study in women, smoking was associated with increased risk for follicular non-Hodgkin lymphoma ([Parker et al., 2000](#)). Similarly, two other studies reported a weak positive association between smoking and risk for follicular lymphoma, but no effect for other histological types ([Herrinton & Friedman, 1998](#); [Stagnaro et al., 2001](#)). A large pooled analysis based on nine North-American and European case–control studies found an overall odds ratio of 1.07 (95%CI: 1.0–1.15) for smokers; the association was particularly strong for follicular lymphoma (OR, 1.31; 95%CI: 1.12–1.52) ([Morton et al., 2005](#)).



### 2.11.2 Hodgkin lymphoma

In the previous *IARC Monograph* ([IARC, 2004a](#)) seven studies on the association between Hodgkin lymphoma and smoking were examined and null or weakly positive associations were noted. Among studies published since, a positive association was observed in two case-control ([Willett et al., 2007](#); [Kanda et al., 2009](#)) and three cohort studies ([Nieters et al., 2006](#); [Lim et al., 2007](#); [Nieters et al., 2008](#)), while one study found no clear association ([Monnereau et al., 2008](#)). Several other recent studies also reported a positive association, but with some internal inconsistencies. In a European multicentre case-control study, no association was observed between tobacco and Hodgkin lymphoma for subjects below age 35 years, whereas for older subjects, ever-smokers experienced a doubled risk of Hodgkin lymphoma as compared to never smokers ([Besson et al., 2006](#)). In contrast, a positive association was observed in young adults participating in the International Twin Study ([Cozen et al., 2009](#)). A positive association was observed in a Scandinavian case-control study, but without a clear dose-response ([Hjalgrim et al., 2007](#)). In a case-control study addressing infectious precursors, particularly Epstein-Barr virus (EBV), an increased risk for EBV-positive Hodgkin lymphoma was found among current smokers ([Glaser et al., 2004](#); Table 2.50 online).

Several of the above studies found positive associations for Hodgkin lymphoma while also demonstrating null or inverse associations with non-Hodgkin lymphoma ([Nieters et al., 2006](#); [Lim et al., 2007](#); [Nieters et al., 2008](#); [Kanda et al., 2009](#)).

### 2.11.3 Multiple myeloma

In the previous *IARC Monograph* ([IARC, 2004a](#)), the large majority of studies on tobacco smoking and risk for multiple myeloma evaluated showed no clear association. More recently,

two case-control studies found a positive association ([Vlajinac et al., 2003](#); [Nieters et al., 2006](#)), whereas no clear association was observed in another case-control study ([Monnereau et al., 2008](#)) or in a cohort study in Sweden ([Fernberg et al., 2007](#); Table 2.51 available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-01-Table2.51.pdf>).

## 2.12 Cancer of the breast

Approximately 150 epidemiological studies have been published on the relationship between breast cancer and active and passive smoking. The results from these studies have been comprehensively examined in peer-reviewed literature ([Palmer & Rosenberg, 1993](#); [Terry et al., 2002a](#); [Johnson et al., 2002](#); [Johnson, 2005](#); [Terry & Goodman, 2006](#); [Miller et al., 2007](#)). The previous *IARC Monograph* ([IARC, 2004a](#)) considered studies conducted through June 2002 and concluded that there is evidence suggesting lack of carcinogenicity of tobacco smoking in humans for cancers of the female breast.

Other consensus reviews have drawn different conclusions, based partly on the availability of new data, and partly on differences in interpretation:

- The 2001 US Surgeon General Report on Women and Smoking (Department of Health & Human Services, 2001) concluded that tobacco smoking does not appear to appreciably affect breast cancer risk overall. However, several issues were not entirely resolved, including whether starting to smoke at an early age increases risk, whether certain subgroups defined by genetic polymorphisms are differentially affected by smoking, and whether exposure to second-hand smoke affects risk.
- The 2004 US Surgeon General report on “The Health Consequences of Smoking” (Department of Health & Human

Services, 2004) concluded the evidence is suggestive of no causal relationship between tobacco smoking and breast cancer.

- The 2009 Canadian Expert Panel on Tobacco Smoke and Breast Cancer Risk ([Collishaw et al., 2009](#)) concludes that based on the weight of evidence from epidemiological and toxicological studies and understanding of biological mechanisms, the associations between tobacco smoking and both pre- and post-menopausal breast cancer are consistent with causality.

The lack of agreement in the conclusions from these groups is not surprising, given that the observed associations are weaker and less consistent for breast cancer than for other tobacco-related cancers. Furthermore, several methodological considerations could either obscure a small increase in risk caused by tobacco smoking, or alternatively introduce a spurious association where no causal relationship exists.

### 2.12.1 *Methodological and related issues*

The principal concerns about studies of tobacco smoking and breast cancer are the following: timing of exposure, the relevant disease endpoint, the potential for confounding by factors associated with both smoking and the occurrence/detection of breast cancer, the hypothesis that tobacco smoking may have opposing effects on breast cancer risk (protective and detrimental), and the hypothesis that some women may be genetically more susceptible to develop breast cancer from smoking, and that increased risk in these subgroups may be obscured in analyses of average risk in the population.

#### *(a) Misclassification of exposure*

Self-reported information on tobacco smoking is generally considered more reliable than questionnaire information on exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke. However, studies of tobacco smoking have not uniformly considered the duration of smoking (years), the average amount smoked (cigarettes/day), or the timing of initiation in relation to first full-term pregnancy. Only one ([Al-Delaimy et al., 2004](#)) of the seven available cohort studies updated the information on smoking behaviour during follow-up. Whereas some exposure variables, such as age at initiation and age at first full-term pregnancy remain constant over time, others, such as smoking status, duration and age at cessation do not. Furthermore, the average age at initiation and duration of smoking are highly correlated with birth cohort and attained age. While the number of years of smoking before first full term pregnancy has been proposed as a potentially relevant measure of exposure, the range of this variable is constrained except among women whose first pregnancy occurs at an older age, which is itself an independent risk factor for breast cancer.

#### *(b) Specificity of disease endpoints*

Breast cancer is not a single disease. Accordingly, some researchers have postulated that exposure to tobacco smoke (from tobacco smoking or second-hand tobacco smoke) could differentially affect certain clinical subtypes of breast such as pre- or post-menopausal cancers or tumours with or without hormonal receptors. It is also possible that smoking might affect the survival of women with breast cancer, whether or not it affects incidence rates. Most published studies have measured incidence rates as the endpoint, although some have measured mortality rates or effects on survival.



*(c) Confounding*

Alcohol consumption is positively correlated with tobacco smoking ([Marshall et al., 1999](#)) and is an established cause of breast cancer ([IARC, 2010a](#); *Monograph on Consumption of Alcoholic Beverages in this Volume*). Most epidemiologic studies attempt to control for alcohol consumption using questionnaire information on usual drinking patterns. This approach is vulnerable to residual confounding, because self-reported data on lifetime alcohol consumption leave room for misclassification. Potential confounding by alcohol consumption is of greater concern for current than for former smokers, since, on average, current smokers drink more than former smokers ([Reynolds et al., 2004a, b](#)). One study by the Collaborative Group on Hormonal Factors and Breast Cancer ([Hamajima et al., 2002](#)) controlled rigorously for alcohol consumption by restricting the analysis of smoking and breast cancer to women who reported drinking no alcohol.

Conversely, mammography screening can be a negative confounder in studies of tobacco smoking and breast cancer incidence. Few studies of tobacco smoking in relation to breast cancer have controlled for mammography screening. Current smokers report a lower frequency of mammographic screening than never-smokers, whereas health conscious former smokers report higher screening rates ([Gross et al., 2006](#)). Mammography screening affects the detection rather than the occurrence of breast cancer; it detects some tumours that might otherwise never have been recognized and allows earlier diagnosis of others, thereby increasing breast cancer incidence in the short-term. The consequence of uncontrolled confounding by mammography screening would be to underestimate an association between current smoking and breast cancer incidence, and to overestimate the association in former smokers. Confounding by screening

would be expected to have the opposite effect in studies of breast cancer mortality.

Other correlates of tobacco smoking might also confound a potential association between tobacco smoking and breast cancer, although their net effect is likely to be smaller and harder to predict than confounding by alcohol and mammography screening. Women who smoke undergo menopause about two to three years earlier than never-smokers ([Baron et al., 1990](#)). The effect of this may be partly or wholly offset by the greater likelihood of girls who experience early menarche to initiate smoking in early adolescence ([Jean et al., 2011](#)). There is no documentation that smokers and never-smokers differ with respect to average years of ovulation. Tobacco smoking also has a complex relationship to body mass index. Post-menopausal women who smoke are less likely to be overweight or obese than former or never smokers, but overweight adolescent girls are more likely to begin smoking for weight control ([Fine et al., 2004](#)). Similarly complex relationships exist between smoking and physical activity. Current smokers report less physical activity than either former or never smokers ([Kaczynski et al., 2008](#); [Troost et al., 2002](#)), but only a small proportion of the population engages in the vigorous physical activity that is needed to protect against breast cancer. The socioeconomic correlates of smoking have changed over time. Women who attended college during the 1960s and 1970s were more likely to initiate smoking than less educated women, but subsequently college-educated women have been more likely to quit. Thus, the potential for confounding by reproductive patterns and use of post-menopausal hormone treatment varies by birth cohort and differs for current and former smokers.

Most epidemiological studies have attempted to control for factors that might confound the relationship between breast cancer and tobacco smoking using questionnaire information collected on these factors. None of the published

studies have been able to control for all of the potential confounders, however. Most studies lack data on screening behaviour and have limited information on alcohol consumption, use of post-menopausal hormones, and physical activity.

(d) *Potential anti-estrogenic effects of tobacco smoking*

Indirect evidence suggests that tobacco smoking may have anti-estrogenic effects that might offset the adverse effects of tobacco smoke carcinogens on breast cancer risk. [Baron et al. \(1990\)](#) pointed to observations suggesting lower estrogen activity levels in women who smoke compared to those who do not. Smokers have lower risk of endometrial cancer (Department of Health & Human Services, 2004), higher risk of osteoporosis ([Jensen et al., 1985](#); [Jensen & Christiansen, 1988](#)), earlier age at natural menopause ([Baron et al., 1990](#)) and lower mammography density ([Roubidoux et al., 2003](#)) than women who do not smoke. Smoking also attenuates the effects of hormone replacement therapy (HRT) on lipid profiles ([Jensen & Christiansen, 1988](#)) and serum estrone ([McDivitt et al., 2008](#)). No difference in serum concentrations of estradiol and estrone between post-menopausal smokers and non-smokers have been reported in several studies ([Cassidenti et al., 1992](#); [Khaw et al., 1988](#); [Berta et al., 1991](#); [Longcope et al., 1986](#); [Berta et al., 1992](#); [Cauley et al., 1989](#); [Friedman et al., 1987](#); [Key et al., 1991](#)). However, smokers have been observed to have higher levels of androgens ([Cassidenti et al., 1992](#)) (specifically androstenedione) ([Khaw et al., 1988](#); [Cauley et al., 1989](#); [Friedman et al., 1987](#); [Key et al., 1991](#)), prolactin ([Berta et al., 1991](#)), and unbound serum estradiol ([Cassidenti et al., 1992](#)).

(e) *Genetically susceptible subgroups*

Certain subgroups of women may have greater risk of breast cancer when exposed to tobacco smoke because of genetic or other factors

affecting cancer susceptibility. Potential interactions between inherited polymorphisms and tobacco smoking have been studied for selected candidate genes that affect carcinogen metabolism, modulation of oxidative damage, immune responses, and DNA repair (see Sections 2.12.4b and 4.2).

## 2.12.2 Analytical studies

Over 130 epidemiological studies on tobacco smoking and breast cancer were reviewed.

(a) *Incidence in current and former smokers*

Since the previous IARC Monograph ([IARC, 2004a](#)), seven reports on cohort studies ([Al-Delaimy et al., 2004](#); [Reynolds et al., 2004a](#); [Gram et al., 2005](#); [Hanaoka et al., 2005](#); [Olson et al., 2005](#); [Cui et al., 2006](#); [Ha et al., 2007](#)) have been published on breast cancer incidence in relation to tobacco smoking (Table 2.52 available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-01-Table2.52.pdf>). Breast cancer incidence was significantly associated with current tobacco smoking in three studies ([Reynolds et al., 2004a](#); [Olson et al., 2005](#); [Cui et al., 2006](#)), with relative risk estimates among the larger studies ranging from 1.12 (95%CI: 0.92–1.37) ([Al-Delaimy et al., 2004](#)) to 1.32 (95%CI: 1.10–1.57) ([Reynolds et al., 2004a](#)). Former smoking was significantly associated with risk in only one cohort ([Al-Delaimy et al., 2004](#)), with relative risk estimates across all of the cohorts ranging from 1.00 (95%CI: 0.93–1.08) ([Cui et al., 2006](#)) to 1.18 (95%CI: 1.02–1.36) ([Al-Delaimy et al., 2004](#)). The association with breast cancer is stronger in current than in former smokers in four of the seven cohort studies ([Reynolds et al., 2004a](#); [Hanaoka et al., 2005](#); [Olson et al., 2005](#); [Cui et al., 2006](#)), although the confidence intervals overlap widely in all but one ([Cui et al., 2006](#)). [The Working group noted that three cohort studies ([Gram et al., 2005](#); [Hanaoka et al., 2005](#); [Olson et al., 2005](#)) provided data on both

the age-adjusted and the multivariate-adjusted risk estimates for current and former smoking. None of these showed attenuation of the estimate associated with current smoking, and two (Hanaoka *et al.*, 2005; Olson *et al.*, 2005) reported somewhat stronger estimates when adjusted for established risk factors besides age. None of the studies adjusted for the frequency of mammography screening. Residual confounding by screening and incomplete control for other risk factors would be expected to cause underestimation of the association with current smoking, and overestimation of the association with former smoking.]

Since the previous *IARC Monograph* (IARC, 2004a), a total of 12 case-control studies on tobacco smoking and breast cancer incidence have been published (Table 2.53 available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-01-Table2.53.pdf>). Results from the case-control studies are less consistent than those from the cohort studies. Six studies (Li *et al.*, 2004; Mechanic *et al.*, 2006; Magnusson *et al.*, 2007; Prescott *et al.*, 2007; Roddam *et al.*, 2007; Slattery *et al.*, 2008) differentiated between current and former smokers, while the six other reports (Band *et al.*, 2002; Lash & Aschengrau, 2002; Gammon *et al.*, 2004; Rollison *et al.*, 2008; Ahern *et al.*, 2009; Young *et al.*, 2009) specify only ever or never smokers. Only one study (Li *et al.*, 2004) reported a borderline significant increase in risk associated with current smoking, and two studies (Band *et al.*, 2002; Rollison *et al.*, 2008) with ever smoking.

None of the six case-control studies that presented data on breast cancer incidence separately for current and former smokers found a significant difference in risk between the two smoking categories; the relative risk estimates were higher for former than for current smokers in four of the studies (Mechanic *et al.*, 2006; Prescott *et al.*, 2007; Roddam *et al.*, 2007; Slattery *et al.*, 2008) and identical in the fifth (Magnusson *et al.*, 2007).

#### (b) *Years of cessation*

When the relative risk for breast cancer incidence in former smokers is examined by years since cessation in cohort studies (Table 2.54 available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-01-Table2.54.pdf>), the point estimates do not consistently decrease with longer time since cessation. In none of the four cohort studies (London *et al.*, 1989b; Egan *et al.*, 2002; Reynolds *et al.*, 2004a; Cui *et al.*, 2006) and in only one (Li *et al.*, 2005) of the five case-control studies (Chu *et al.*, 1990; Gammon *et al.*, 1998; Johnson *et al.*, 2000; Kropp & Chang-Claude, 2002; Li *et al.*, 2005) that formally tested for trend (Table 2.55 available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-01-Table2.55.pdf>) was there a statistically significant decrease in relative risk observed with longer time since cessation. Only one study has reported data on breast cancer mortality in relation to years since quitting or age at cessation (Calle *et al.*, 1994). A statistically significant inverse trend in the relative risk estimates was reported with both years since quitting ( $p$  trend = 0.04) and younger age at cessation ( $p$  trend = 0.02). [The Working Group noted that the inverse trends in the relative risk of dying from breast cancer observed in this study are weaker than those observed with most other cancers designated as causally associated with smoking.]

#### (c) *Duration of smoking and age at initiation*

Tables 2.56–2.61 (see below for links) list the published epidemiologic studies that relate breast cancer incidence to duration of tobacco smoking, age at initiation and/or timing relative to first full term pregnancy.

Longer duration of smoking is associated with higher breast cancer incidence in five of seven cohort studies (Table 2.56 available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-01-Table2.56.pdf>). A similar trend is seen inconsistently among the 33 case-control



studies that report relative risk estimates by duration of smoking (Table 2.57 available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-01-Table2.57.pdf>). Among the 18 studies that reported a formal test of trend, eight studies (Gammon *et al.*, 1998; Johnson *et al.*, 2000; Reynolds *et al.*, 2004a; Gram *et al.*, 2005; Li *et al.*, 2005; van der Hel *et al.*, 2005; Cui *et al.*, 2006; Mechanic *et al.*, 2006) reported a statistically significant or borderline increase in the relative risk of incident breast cancer with the duration of smoking; seven studies (Ewertz, 1990; Palmer *et al.*, 1991; Egan *et al.*, 2002; Al-Delaimy *et al.*, 2004; Lissowska *et al.*, 2006; Magnusson *et al.*, 2007; Prescott *et al.*, 2007) reported no trend, and one study (Brinton *et al.*, 1986) reported an inverse relationship.

Thirty studies, including cohort (Tables 2.58 available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-01-Table2.58.pdf>) and case-control studies (Table 2.59 available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-01-Table2.59.pdf>) related breast cancer incidence to age at smoking initiation. Fifteen of these (Chu *et al.*, 1990; Ewertz, 1990; Palmer *et al.*, 1991; Nordlund *et al.*, 1997; Gammon *et al.*, 1998; Johnson *et al.*, 2000; Egan *et al.*, 2002; Kropp & Chang-Claude, 2002; Gram *et al.*, 2005; Cui *et al.*, 2006; Lissowska *et al.*, 2006; Ha *et al.*, 2007; Lissowska *et al.*, 2007; Magnusson *et al.*, 2007; Prescott *et al.*, 2007; Slattery *et al.*, 2008) reported a formal test of trend. Among these, only two (Gram *et al.*, 2005; Ha *et al.*, 2007) found a statistically significant or borderline significantly higher risk in women who began smoking at a younger ages; twelve studies (Chu *et al.*, 1990; Ewertz, 1990; Palmer *et al.*, 1991; Nordlund *et al.*, 1997; Gammon *et al.*, 1998; Johnson *et al.*, 2000; Egan *et al.*, 2002; Cui *et al.*, 2006; Lissowska *et al.*, 2006; Magnusson *et al.*, 2007; Prescott *et al.*, 2007; Slattery *et al.*, 2008) found no relationship with age at initiation, and one (Kropp & Chang-Claude, 2002) reported higher risk among women who began

smoking later. [The Working Group noted that at least two studies (Cui *et al.*, 2006; Slattery *et al.*, 2008) appear to have included never-smokers in the tests of trend and that the categories that define age at initiation differ across studies.]

The relative risk of incident breast cancer according to the timing of smoking initiation relative to first full-term pregnancy was reported in 21 studies, of cohort (Table 2.60 available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-01-Table2.60.pdf>) and case-control (Table 2.61 available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-01-Table2.61.pdf>) design. For nine studies (Hunter *et al.*, 1997; Egan *et al.*, 2002; Al-Delaimy *et al.*, 2004; Reynolds *et al.*, 2004a; Li *et al.*, 2005; Cui *et al.*, 2006; Prescott *et al.*, 2007; Rollison *et al.*, 2008; Young *et al.*, 2009) categorical data on years of smoking before first pregnancy are presented, whereas for 12 (Lash & Aschengrau, 1999; Innes & Byers, 2001; Band *et al.*, 2002; Kropp & Chang-Claude, 2002; Lash & Aschengrau, 2002; Fink & Lash, 2003; Lawlor *et al.*, 2004; Gram *et al.*, 2005; Olson *et al.*, 2005; Lissowska *et al.*, 2006; Magnusson *et al.*, 2007; Slattery *et al.*, 2008) whether smoking was initiated before or after the initial pregnancy was considered. Breast cancer incidence is consistently higher when smoking began before or during first pregnancy in most (Hunter *et al.*, 1997; Lash & Aschengrau, 1999; Innes & Byers, 2001; Band *et al.*, 2002; Egan *et al.*, 2002; Al-Delaimy *et al.*, 2004; Reynolds *et al.*, 2004a; Gram *et al.*, 2005; Li *et al.*, 2005; Olson *et al.*, 2005; Cui *et al.*, 2006; Slattery *et al.*, 2008; Young *et al.*, 2009) but not all (Kropp & Chang-Claude, 2002; Lash & Aschengrau, 2002; Fink & Lash, 2003; Prescott *et al.*, 2007) studies that tested this. [The Working Group noted that the number of years of smoking before first pregnancy is highly correlated with age at first full-term pregnancy, which is itself an independent risk factor for breast cancer.]

It has been argued that some studies, and especially cohort studies, may underestimate

the true association between tobacco smoking and breast cancer risk by ignoring or underestimating lifetime exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke of those in the referent group ([California Environmental Protection Agency, 2005](#); [Johnson, 2005](#); [Collishaw \*et al.\*, 2009](#)). This criticism is based on the hypothesis that exposure to second-hand smoke may confer almost the same degree of breast cancer risk as tobacco smoking. Under this hypothesis, the inclusion of women exposed to second-hand smoke in the referent group dilutes the contrast between exposed and unexposed women in studies of tobacco smoking, and causes underestimation of the association between tobacco smoking and breast cancer. In several case-control studies the association between breast cancer and tobacco smoking strengthened when the referent group was defined as women with “never active, never-passive” exposure to tobacco smoke ([Morabia \*et al.\*, 1996](#); [Lash & Aschengrau, 1999](#); [Johnson \*et al.\*, 2000](#); [Kropp & Chang-Claude, 2002](#)). In contrast, a stronger association between tobacco smoking and breast cancer risk, when women exposed only to second-hand smoke are excluded from the referent group, has not been observed in cohort studies ([Egan \*et al.\*, 2002](#); [Reynolds \*et al.\*, 2004a](#)). Debate continues over whether the case-control studies should be considered “of highest quality” because they provide “lifetime exposure assessment” ([Collishaw \*et al.\*, 2009](#)) or whether the cohort studies are more credible, because prospectively-collected exposure data are not susceptible to the recall bias that can affect retrospective studies.

#### (d) *Survival and mortality from breast cancer*

The relationship between smoking and the natural history of breast cancer has been examined in several studies ([Daniell, 1988](#); [Ewertz \*et al.\*, 1991](#); [Daniell \*et al.\*, 1993](#); [Scanlon \*et al.\*, 1995](#); [Yu \*et al.\*, 1997](#); [Manjer \*et al.\*, 2000](#); [Murin & Inciardi, 2001](#); [Holmes \*et al.\*, 2007](#)). In cross-sectional analyses, [Daniell \*et al.\* \(1993\)](#) found that

smokers with breast cancer had more and larger lymph node metastases than non-smokers, after controlling for primary tumour size and other variables. Further, a case-control study ([Murin & Inciardi, 2001](#)) and a retrospective cohort study ([Scanlon \*et al.\*, 1995](#)) found smoking to be associated with an increased risk of developing pulmonary metastases from breast cancer. However, these studies could not definitively distinguish lung metastases from primary lung cancers.

Five cohort studies have focused specifically upon the association of tobacco smoking with either breast cancer survival ([Ewertz \*et al.\*, 1991](#); [Yu \*et al.\*, 1997](#); [Manjer \*et al.\*, 2000](#); [Holmes \*et al.\*, 2007](#)) or breast cancer death rates ([Calle \*et al.\*, 1994](#)). A study of 1774 Danish women showed no association between smoking and breast cancer survival ([Ewertz \*et al.\*, 1991](#)), as did a study of 5056 women with breast cancer in the Nurse’s Health Study ([Holmes \*et al.\*, 2007](#)). In contrast, follow-up of 792 women with in situ or invasive breast cancer detected in a screening study in Malmö, Sweden found a crude relative risk for smokers and ex-smokers, compared to never smokers, of 1.44 (95%CI: 1.01–2.06) and of 1.13 (95%CI: 0.66–1.94), respectively ([Manjer \*et al.\*, 2000](#)). The relative risk associated with smoking remained significant after adjustment for age and stage at diagnosis (RR, 2.14; 95%CI: 1.47–3.10). A study based on the ACS Cancer Prevention Study II reported an association between current smoking and increased breast cancer death rates after six years of follow-up (Table 2.56 online; [Calle \*et al.\*, 1994](#)). Risk of death attributed to breast cancer was positively and significantly related to the duration of current smoking reported at the time of enrolment. However, the authors acknowledge that mortality studies cannot exclude biases arising from the effect of smoking on overall death rates, which could increase the potential for prevalent breast cancer to be coded as the underlying cause of death on the death certificate ([Calle \*et al.\*, 1994](#)).

### 2.12.3 Subtypes

#### (a) Pre- versus post-menopausal

Since the previous *IARC Monograph* ([IARC, 2004a](#)), 19 case-control studies have published data on tobacco smoking in relation to pre- and post-menopausal breast cancer (Table 2.62 available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-01-Table2.62.pdf>). The results are inconsistent. Of the 12 studies that provide information separately for current smokers ([Schechter et al., 1985](#); [Brinton et al., 1986](#); [Rohan & Baron, 1989](#); [Ewertz, 1990](#); [Baron et al., 1996](#); [Gammon et al., 1998](#); [Millikan et al., 1998](#); [Johnson et al., 2000](#); [Zheng et al., 2002](#); [Magnusson et al., 2007](#); [Slattery et al., 2008](#)), only five ([Schechter et al., 1985](#); [Johnson et al., 2000](#); [Magnusson et al., 2007](#); [Slattery et al., 2008](#)) found a stronger association with pre- than with post-menopausal breast cancer. The other analyses show either similar associations ([Brinton et al., 1986](#); [Ewertz, 1990](#); [Baron et al., 1996](#); [Gammon et al., 1998](#); [Millikan et al., 1998](#); [Zheng et al., 2002](#)) or a stronger association with post-menopausal breast cancer ([Rohan & Baron, 1989](#); [Millikan et al., 1998](#); [Johnson et al., 2000](#); [Zheng et al., 2002](#)).

#### (b) Hormone receptor status

Two cohort studies ([London et al., 1989a](#); [Manjer et al., 2001](#)), one case-control study ([Morabia et al., 1998](#)) and a case series ([Yoo et al., 1997](#)) have examined the association between quantitative measures of cigarette smoking and breast cancer risk according to estrogen receptor (ER) status. In one of the cohort studies ([Manjer et al., 2001](#)), a statistically significant increased risk (RR, 1.6) of ER negative tumours associated with current smoking was found but no clear association between smoking and ER positive tumours, and no difference in the association with progesterone receptor (PR)-positive and PR-negative tumours. In the other three studies

there was no clear difference in the association related to ER or PR receptor status.

### 2.12.4 Susceptible populations

More than 30 studies and meta-analyses ([Alberg et al., 2004](#); [Terry & Goodman, 2006](#); [Ambrosone et al., 2008](#); [Collishaw et al., 2009](#)) have evaluated whether a family history of breast cancer and/or inherited polymorphisms in various genes may confer greater susceptibility to develop breast cancer from exposure to tobacco smoke. These are described below in relation to the measure indicating potential susceptibility.

#### (a) Family history

In two studies, whether a family history of breast cancer modifies susceptibility to develop breast cancer from tobacco smoking has been examined. [Couch et al. \(2001\)](#) measured breast cancer incidence among female family members in a cohort of breast cancer cases diagnosed between 1944 and 1952 at the University of Minnesota. Sisters and daughters in families with at least three breast and/or ovarian cancers were at 2.4 fold higher risk for breast cancer (95%CI: 1.2–5.1) if they smoked compared to never-smokers. No dose-response was observed in relation to pack-years of smoking.

[Suzuki et al. \(2007\)](#) reported a statistically significant interaction between family history of breast cancer and smoking history in a hospital-based case-control study of 3861 breast cancer cases treated at a large cancer centre in Japan between 1988 and 2000. A family history of breast cancer in the absence of smoking was associated with a relative risk of 1.44 (95%CI: 1.21–1.71); the relative risk estimate was 1.95 (95%CI: 1.36–2.81) in women who reported < 30 pack-years of tobacco smoking, and 4.33 (95%CI: 1.65–11.40) in women who reported > 30 pack-years of smoking.

[The Working group noted that Japanese women who smoked during this time period



may have differed from never-smokers in other characteristics related to breast cancer. Besides its strong correlation with female smoking, “Westernization” might be associated with delayed childbearing, smaller families, higher body mass index, and greater use of post-menopausal hormones.]

### (b) Genetic polymorphisms

Studies of breast cancer, smoking and low penetrance genetic polymorphisms are summarized in Table 2.63 (available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-01-Table2.63.pdf>). The candidate genes in these studies are involved in carcinogen metabolism [*N*-acetyltransferases (*NAT1*, *NAT2*), cytochrome P450s (*CYP1A1*, *CYP1B1*, *CYP2E2*), GSTs], host responses to oxidative stress (superoxide dismutase) or to infectious organisms (myeloperoxidase and immunoglobulin binding protein) and DNA repair (*O*<sup>6</sup>-methylguanine DNA methyltransferase, nucleotide excision repair).

The most consistent associations with breast cancer risk have been observed among long-term smokers with the *NAT2* slow acetylation genotype (Terry & Goodman, 2006). *NAT2* slow acetylation genotype is thought to confer less capability to detoxify tobacco smoke carcinogens and is associated with an increase in breast cancer risk (Ambrosone *et al.*, 1996, 2008). Approximately 50–60% of Caucasian women are reported to be slow acetylators.

Table 2.63 (online) lists 15 studies of polymorphisms in *NAT2*, of which 9 were included in a pooled analysis and 13 in a meta-analysis (Ambrosone *et al.*, 2008). [The study by Delfino *et al.* (2000) was excluded from these analyses because cases included women with benign breast disease; the study by Lilla *et al.* (2005) was not considered because it is based on the same population as that by Chang-Claude *et al.* (2002).] The meta-analysis found a statistically significant association between ever tobacco

smoking and breast cancer risk among women with the *NAT2* slow acetylator genotype (meta-RR, 1.27; 95%CI: 1.16–1.40) but not in those with rapid acetylator genotype (meta-RR, 1.05; 95%CI: 0.95–1.17). Pack-years of tobacco smoking was significantly associated with increasing breast cancer risk among women with *NAT2* slow acetylator genotype (meta-RR for ever smokers, 1.44; 95%CI: 1.23–1.68, for > 20 pack-years versus never smokers), but not among rapid acetylators (Ambrosone *et al.*, 2008). No main effect was seen between *NAT2* status and breast cancer risk (meta-RR, 1.0; 95%CI: 0.93–1.07). In contrast to an earlier meta-analysis (Alberg *et al.*, 2004), this study observed no difference in risk for pre- or post-menopausal breast cancer. The pooled analysis of nine studies (Ambrosone *et al.*, 2008) reported pooled risk estimates for pre- and post-menopausal women of 1.49 (95%CI: 1.08–2.04) and 1.42 (95%CI: 1.16–1.74), respectively, among women with slow *NAT2* genotype and at least 20 pack-years of smoking compared to never-smokers. The corresponding values for women with rapid acetylator genotype were 1.29 (95%CI: 0.89–1.86) and 0.88 (95%CI: 0.69–1.13). A statistically significant interaction was observed between pack-years of smoking as a continuous variable and *NAT2* genotype (*p* interaction = 0.03).

A population-based case-control study published after the meta-analysis by Ambrosone *et al.* compared the prevalence of the *NAT2* genotypes and their joint effect with smoking on breast cancer risk in Hispanic and non-Hispanic white women (Baumgartner *et al.*, 2009). Non-Hispanic white women were more likely (*P* < 0.001) than Hispanics to have a slow (41.7% versus 33.5%) or very slow (19.0% versus 11.1%) *NAT2* acetylator status. Breast cancer risk was significantly increased in non-Hispanic smoking white women with a very slow acetylator genotype (RR, 2.46; 95%CI: 1.07–5.65 for current versus never).

[The Working Group noted that publication bias remains a concern in the studies of *NAT2* published to date. All of the studies included in the meta-analysis by Ambrosone *et al.* were published between 1996 and 2006; some among them (Morabia *et al.*, 2000; Sillanpää *et al.*, 2007) reported very strong associations that seem inconsistent with the rest of the data. Because genetic studies often examine multiple genes, it is plausible that studies that find no main effect with *NAT2* have not examined this association or that null results for smoking have not been published.]

Fewer studies with less consistent findings have been published on polymorphisms in other genes such as *NAT1*, *CYP1A1*, *GST*, *NOS3*, *MPO*, *MnSOD2* and various DNA repair genes (Table 2.63 online).

#### 2.12.5 High penetrance genes & prognosis

At least seven studies have examined the hypothesis that tobacco smoking may modify breast cancer risk among women who carry *BRCA1* and *BRCA2* mutations (Brunet *et al.*, 1998; Ghadirian *et al.*, 2004; Colilla *et al.*, 2006; Gronwald *et al.*, 2006; Nkondjock *et al.*, 2006; Breast Cancer Family Registry, 2008; Ginsburg *et al.*, 2009). The results have been inconsistent. A recent case-control study of women under age 50 years who were carriers of mutations in *BRCA1* or *BRCA2* reported increased risk for breast cancer associated with as little as five pack-years of smoking. Compared to non-smokers, the risk associated with five or more pack-years of smoking was 2.3 (95%CI: 1.6–3.5) for *BRCA1* mutation carriers and 2.6 (95%CI: 1.8–3.9) for *BRCA2* mutation carriers (Breast Cancer Family Registry, 2008). In contrast, six other studies reported no increased risk among *BRCA1* or *BRCA2* carriers who smoke. The Canadian Panel review (Collishaw *et al.*, 2009) postulated that the five previous studies (Brunet *et al.*, 1998; Ghadirian *et al.*, 2004; Colilla *et al.*,

2006; Gronwald *et al.*, 2006; Nkondjock *et al.*, 2006) may have failed to observe a relationship because they included prevalent cases. However, a sixth study published since the Canadian panel review is also negative (Ginsburg *et al.*, 2009).

## 2.13 Cancer of the cervix

The association between smoking and cervical cancer has been examined in many epidemiological studies over the past few decades.

Since the previous *IARC Monograph* (IARC, 2004a), additional epidemiological studies have been published. Study design and results of the case-control studies restricted to HPV positive women or that adjusted for HPV status are presented in Table 2.64 (available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-01-Table2.64.pdf>) and Table 2.65 (available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-01-Table2.65.pdf>). Cohort studies and pooled analyses are presented in Table 2.66 (available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-01-Table2.66.pdf>) and Table 2.67 (available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-01-Table2.67.pdf>), respectively. Table 2.68 (available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-01-Table2.68.pdf>) and Table 2.69 (available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-01-Table2.69.pdf>) present additional cohort studies and pooled analyses on tobacco smoking and cervical, cervical intraepithelia neoplasia and carcinoma in situ, with or without controlling for HPV status, respectively.

### 2.13.1 Dose-response relationship

A positive association between smoking and incidence of cervical squamous-cell carcinoma, which account for approximately 90% of all cervical cancers, has been shown consistently over several decades in many epidemiological studies

of various designs conducted across different geographic regions. Dose–response associations with smoking intensity and duration were noted in many of the studies where such associations were examined ([Berrington de González et al., 2004](#); [Appleby et al., 2006](#)). Conversely, no clear association was found among former smokers. For adenocarcinoma of the cervix, which usually account for less than 10% of the total of all types of cervical cancer, there appears to be no clear association with smoking ([Berrington de González et al., 2004](#)).

### 2.13.2 Interaction with HPV positivity

Epidemiological studies of smoking and cervical cancer increasingly have considered the effects of HPV infection, which is recognized as the main etiological factor for invasive and pre-invasive cervical neoplasia worldwide ([IARC, 1995, 2012b](#)). HPV infection has been considered not only with respect to possible effect modification ([Hellberg & Stendahl, 2005](#); [Gunnell et al., 2006](#)), but also to confounding, as both HPV infection and smoking habits are directly associated with number of sexual partners and other indications of high-risk sexual behaviours ([Sikström et al., 1995](#); [Wang et al., 2004](#); [Hellberg & Stendahl, 2005](#); [McIntyre-Seltman et al., 2005](#); [Syrjänen et al., 2007](#)). Although there have been exceptions ([Syrjänen et al., 2007](#)), recent studies have generally continued to show that statistical adjustment for the potential confounding effects of HPV infection, or restricting studies to women with high risk HPV infection ([Plummer et al., 2003](#)), does not appreciably alter the finding of a positive association or its magnitude ([McIntyre-Seltman et al., 2005](#); [Appleby et al., 2006](#); [Tolstrup et al., 2006](#); [Tsai et al., 2007](#); [Nishino et al., 2008](#); [Kapeu et al., 2009](#)).

Statistical adjustment for the potentially confounding effect of HPV infection was usually based on the measured presence of HPV DNA in cervical cells or anti-HPV serum antibodies

in multivariate analytical models; as noted above, studies have also restricted their analyses to HPV-positive cases and controls. As there is currently no reliable marker of persistent HPV infection, case–control studies based on a cross-sectional measurement of HPV cannot distinguish between transient and persistent infections ([Franco et al., 1999](#)). Tobacco smoking is suspected to facilitate acquisition or persistence of an HPV infection through a reduced number of Langerhans cells and CD4 lymphocytes, which are markers of local immune response in the cervix ([Vaccarella et al., 2008](#)). In addition, smoking may affect innate immunity ([Ferson et al., 1979](#)). Current smokers have been shown to have a slightly higher HPV prevalence than non-smokers in a broad range of world populations after adjustment for life-time number of sexual partners (OR, 1.18; 95%CI: 1.01–1.39) ([Vaccarella et al., 2008](#)). Studies have evaluated the effect of smoking on HPV persistence. One study shows lower probability of HPV clearance among ever smokers ([Giuliano et al., 2002](#)) but a few others found no relationship ([Molano et al., 2003](#); [Richardson et al., 2005](#)).

## 2.14 Cancer of the endometrium

### 2.14.1 Overview of studies

To date, at least 42 epidemiological studies have examined the association between smoking and endometrial cancer, 25 reviewed in the previous *IARC Monograph* ([IARC, 2004a](#)) and 17 published since then ([Petridou et al., 2002](#); [Folsom et al., 2003](#); [Furberg & Thune, 2003](#); [Newcomb & Trentham-Dietz, 2003](#); [Beral et al., 2005](#); [Matthews et al., 2005](#); [Viswanathan et al., 2005](#); [Okamura et al., 2006](#); [Strom et al., 2006](#); [Trentham-Dietz et al., 2006](#); [Weiss et al., 2006a](#); [Al-Zoughool et al., 2007](#); [Bjørge et al., 2007](#); [Lacey et al., 2007](#); [Loerbroks et al., 2007](#); [Setiawan et al., 2007](#); [Lindemann et al., 2008](#)). Study design and results of the additional studies

are presented separately for the case-control studies (Table 2.70 available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-01-Table2.70.pdf> and Table 2.71 available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-01-Table2.71.pdf>, respectively) and for the cohort studies (Table 2.72 available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-01-Table2.72.pdf> and Table 2.73 available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-01-Table2.73.pdf>, respectively).

#### (a) Cohort studies

The majority of the 13 cohort studies (Engeland *et al.*, 1996; Terry *et al.*, 1999, 2002b; Folsom *et al.*, 2003; Furberg & Thune 2003; Beral *et al.*, 2005; Viswanathan *et al.*, 2005; Al-Zoughool *et al.*, 2007; Bjørge *et al.*, 2007; Lacey *et al.*, 2007; Loerbroks *et al.*, 2007; Setiawan *et al.*, 2007; Lindemann *et al.*, 2008) suggest a decreased risk among current smokers, including the largest study with over 9000 cases (Bjørge *et al.*, 2007). In five of these studies quantitative smoking measures have been examined in relation to endometrial cancer risk (Terry *et al.*, 1999, 2002b; Viswanathan *et al.*, 2005; Al-Zoughool *et al.*, 2007; Loerbroks *et al.*, 2007). Of these, one (Terry *et al.*, 1999) found a 50% reduced risk among current smokers in the highest level of intensity (11 cigarettes per day or more) compared with non-smokers, but the number of cases was low and the confidence intervals correspondingly wide. A more recent and larger cohort study (Terry *et al.*, 2002b) found a statistically significant 40% reduced risk among current smokers of more than 20 cigarettes per day, but showed somewhat weaker and statistically non-significant reductions in risk with smoking of long duration or high cumulative consumption (i.e. pack-years). In contrast, the risk among former smokers was similar to that among never smokers. The largest of these studies generally showed decreasing risk of endometrial cancer with increasing

smoking intensity, duration, and pack-years of consumption (Viswanathan *et al.*, 2005). Three studies examined the association between time since smoking cessation and endometrial cancer risk. Two of these studies suggested a positive association with time since quitting (compared with non-smokers) (Viswanathan *et al.*, 2005; Loerbroks *et al.*, 2007), whereas one found no association (Terry *et al.*, 2002b).

#### (b) Case-control studies

The results of 17 population-based case-control studies (Smith *et al.*, 1984; Tyler *et al.*, 1985; Franks *et al.*, 1987; Elliott *et al.*, 1990; Rubin *et al.*, 1990; Brinton *et al.*, 1993; Goodman *et al.*, 1997; Shields *et al.*, 1999; Jain *et al.*, 2000; McCann *et al.*, 2000; Newcomer *et al.*, 2001; Weiderpass & Baron, 2001; Newcomb & Trentham-Dietz, 2003; Matthews *et al.*, 2005; Strom *et al.*, 2006; Trentham-Dietz *et al.*, 2006; Weiss *et al.*, 2006a), that have included between 46 and 1304 endometrial cancer cases, generally have shown reductions in risk among current smokers compared with never smokers (although the magnitude of the reduction in risk has varied somewhat); results among former smokers compared with never smokers were equally variable, albeit somewhat weaker overall. The results of eight hospital-based case-control studies (Kelsey *et al.*, 1982; Lesko *et al.*, 1985; Levi *et al.*, 1987; Stockwell & Lyman, 1987; Koumantaki *et al.*, 1989; Austin *et al.*, 1993; Petridou *et al.*, 2002; Okamura *et al.*, 2006), which included between 83 and 1374 endometrial cancer cases, are somewhat consistent with those of population-based studies. They showed moderate (e.g. 30–40%) reduction in risks among current compared with never smokers, and unaltered risks (or perhaps a small 10–20% reduction in risk) in former compared with never smokers. The largest of the hospital-based studies (Stockwell & Lyman, 1987), with 1374 cases and 3921 controls, found both former and current smokers to be at moderately (approximately 30%) reduced risk



of endometrial cancer. To date, six population-based case-control studies ([Tyler et al., 1985](#); [Lawrence et al., 1987, 1989](#); [Brinton et al., 1993](#); [Newcomer et al., 2001](#); [Weiderpass & Baron, 2001](#)) have examined quantitative measures of smoking in relation to endometrial cancer risk, generally showing inverse associations to be strongest among current smokers of high intensity or long duration.

### 2.14.2 Confounders

Whereas the majority of these studies adjusted their relative risk estimates for potentially confounding variables, such as BMI, HRT, parity, diabetes, and age at menopause, studies that did not adjust for these variables tended to show similar inverse associations. Within individual studies, statistical adjustment for the effects of BMI and other covariates often made little difference, although some attenuation of relative risk estimates has been noted ([Weiderpass & Baron, 2001](#); [Terry et al., 2002c](#)).

### 2.14.3 Effect modification

The association between smoking and endometrial cancer risk according to factors that are known determinants of endogenous hormone concentrations, and which may counteract or augment possible tobacco-related hormonal changes, have been examined in several studies. These factors include menopausal status, HRT and BMI. Effect modification can reflect true underlying differences in the association across strata (for example, if cigarette smoking acts to reduce or modify estrogen concentrations differently in one group compared with another), but can also reflect methodological factors, such as differences that occur by chance or through the varying prevalence of confounding variables.

#### (a) Menopausal status

Although endometrial cancer is rare among pre-menopausal women, several studies have examined the association between cigarette smoking and endometrial cancer risk according to menopausal status, because the effect of smoking (if any) might vary according to the underlying hormonal milieu. The studies have included two cohort studies ([Terry et al., 2002b](#); [Al-Zoughool et al., 2007](#)), five population-based case-control studies ([Smith et al., 1984](#); [Franks et al., 1987](#); [Lawrence et al., 1987](#); [Brinton et al., 1993](#); [Weiderpass & Baron, 2001](#)), and four hospital-based case-control studies ([Lesko et al., 1985](#); [Levi et al., 1987](#); [Stockwell & Lyman, 1987](#); [Koumantaki et al., 1989](#)). In all but one of these studies, a study of early stage endometrial cancer ([Lawrence et al., 1987](#)), the inverse association was (to varying degrees) stronger among post-menopausal than pre-menopausal women. Among pre-menopausal women, the relative risk estimates for cigarette smoking have been inconsistent, sometimes showing increased risks with certain measures of cigarette smoking ([Smith et al., 1984](#); [Stockwell & Lyman, 1987](#); [Koumantaki et al., 1989](#); [Brinton et al., 1993](#); [Al-Zoughool et al., 2007](#)), sometimes showing decreased risks ([Lawrence et al., 1987](#); [Levi et al., 1987](#); [Brinton et al., 1993](#); [Terry et al., 2002b](#)), and sometimes showing practically no association ([Lesko et al., 1985](#); [Weiderpass & Baron, 2001](#); [Al-Zoughool et al., 2007](#)). In analyses limited to post-menopausal women, on the other hand, all showed between 10% and 80% reduced risks of endometrial cancer with the various smoking measures.

#### (b) Hormone replacement therapy

Given the possibility that cigarette smoking affects hormone concentrations mostly among women who are taking HRT ([Jensen et al., 1985](#); [Jensen & Christiansen, 1988](#); [Cassidenti et al., 1990](#)), the inverse association between tobacco

smoking and endometrial cancer risk might be stronger among HRT users than among non-users. However, the results of studies that have examined the association between smoking and endometrial cancer risk according to HRT use have been equivocal ([Weiss \*et al.\*, 1980](#); [Franks \*et al.\*, 1987](#); [Lawrence \*et al.\*, 1987](#); [Levi \*et al.\*, 1987](#); [Terry \*et al.\*, 2002b](#); [Beral \*et al.\*, 2005](#)). Whereas in two studies ([Franks \*et al.\*, 1987](#); [Levi \*et al.\*, 1987](#)) a larger reduction in risk among smokers taking HRT than among smokers not taking HRT was observed, in two other studies ([Lawrence \*et al.\*, 1987](#); [Terry \*et al.\*, 2002b](#)) there was no difference in the association according to HRT status. A cohort study that examined associations only among women using HRT showed no clear association among users of continuous combined HRT and cyclic combined HRT, but some suggestion of increased risk among smokers who used tibolone (perhaps more clearly among former smokers) ([Beral \*et al.\*, 2005](#)). Thus, although effect modification by HRT status is biologically plausible, the available epidemiological evidence is equivocal.

#### (c) *Relative body weight*

Obesity is an established risk factor for endometrial cancer ([IARC, 2002](#)). Smokers tend to have a lower BMI than non-smokers, although former smokers tend to have a higher BMI than current or never smokers ([Baron \*et al.\*, 1990](#)). Two case-control studies have examined the association between cigarette smoking and endometrial cancer risk according to BMI, one population-based ([Elliott \*et al.\*, 1990](#)) and one hospital-based ([Levi \*et al.\*, 1987](#)). Neither of these studies found clear differences in the association between smoking and endometrial cancer risk according to BMI. In a population-based case-control study of early stage endometrial cancer ([Lawrence \*et al.\*, 1987](#)), the inverse association with cigarette smoking tended to become stronger with increasing absolute rather than relative body weight.

#### 2.14.4 *Gene polymorphisms*

Cigarette smoking and estrogen are both thought to influence cancer risk through pathways that are under the control of specific genes, such as those involved in the formation of bulky DNA adducts by estrogen metabolites ([Cavalieri \*et al.\*, 2000](#)) and both bulky and non-bulky adducts formed by carcinogens in tobacco smoke ([Terry & Rohan, 2002](#)). Therefore, studies have been conducted to examine the association between smoking and endometrial cancer risk according to genes that repair these types of DNA damage. In a moderately-sized population-based case-control study no clear effect modification according to certain polymorphisms in the *XPA* and *XPC* genes, both of which are involved in the nucleotide excision repair of bulky DNA adducts and may influence endometrial cancer risk, were found ([Weiss \*et al.\*, 2005, 2006b](#)). A nested case-control study also showed no clear effect modification according to three polymorphisms in *CYP1A1* ([McGrath \*et al.\*, 2007](#)), a gene that encodes microsomal CYP1A1, which contributes to aryl hydrocarbon hydroxylase activity, catalysing the metabolism of PAHs and other carcinogens found in tobacco smoke ([Masson \*et al.\*, 2005](#)). In another nested case-control study some evidence was found that the association between smoking and endometrial cancer may vary according to a polymorphism (Ile<sup>143</sup>Val) in *O*<sup>6</sup>-methylguanine DNA methyltransferase (*MGMT*). Overall, studies that address the association between smoking and endometrial cancer risk according to genotype are scarce.

### 2.15 Cancer of the prostate

Many epidemiological studies have examined the association between cigarette smoking and prostate cancer risk, and most have shown no consistent association ([Hickey \*et al.\*, 2001](#); [Levi & La Vecchia, 2001](#); [Batty \*et al.\*, 2008](#); [Butler](#)



*et al.*, 2009; *Huncharek et al.*, 2010; Table 2.74 available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-01-Table2.74.pdf>; Table 2.75 available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-01-Table2.75.pdf>). However, questions remain regarding whether smoking may alter risk in various population subgroups, for example, those defined by certain genotypes, and whether any association with smoking may be stronger for, or limited to, advanced tumours or prostate cancer mortality. Regarding this latter issue, the majority of epidemiological studies, including several large, long-term cohort studies, have reported a positive association between smoking and prostate cancer mortality (*Rohrmann et al.*, 2007; *Zu & Giovannucci*, 2009). Several studies that examined smoking in relation to both prostate cancer incidence and mortality tend to show positive results only for the latter (*Rohrmann et al.*, 2007; *Zu & Giovannucci*, 2009). Given the largely null results with respect to prostate cancer incidence, the latter findings suggest that smoking is less likely to be a causal agent in prostate cancer initiation than an agent that acts on existing tumours to promote their progression (*Zu & Giovannucci*, 2009).

A recent review of smoking and prostate cancer that focused specifically on aggressive and fatal tumours, considered the findings from 14 cohort studies (*Zu & Giovannucci*, 2009). Nine of these studies showed statistically significant increased risk with at least one smoking measure, and five showed increased risks that were not statistically significant for any measure. Only one study showed no association with any measure of tobacco consumption. Seven studies of various designs examined smoking with respect to indicators of cancer aggressive behaviour at the time of diagnosis. In these studies smoking was associated positively with tumour grade, risk of regional, distant, extraprostatic or metastatic disease, Gleason score, and biochemical outcome (failure) after prostate brachytherapy

and in several dose–response associations with the respective endpoint were demonstrated. In one study smoking cessation was associated with a decline in risk compared with that among current smokers.

The association between smoking and prostate cancer risk according to genotype and other potentially effect-modifying factors have been examined in several studies. For example, in a population-based case–control study tobacco use was a risk factor for prostate cancer primarily among men with high BMI (*Sharpe & Siemiatycki*, 2001). The results of a cohort study in Switzerland suggest that risk of prostate cancer mortality is increased in smokers, particularly those with low plasma vitamin E levels (*Eichholzer et al.*, 1999). These latter associations, as well as those regarding several genotypes that may modify the association (*Mao et al.*, 2004; *Nock et al.*, 2006; *Quiñones et al.*, 2006; *Yang et al.*, 2006; *Iguchi et al.*, 2009; *Kesarwani et al.*, 2009), have yet to be fully clarified.

[The Working Group noted that several of the studies of smoking and prostate cancer mortality did not demonstrate clear dose–response associations with risk, and noted the possibility of bias due to confounding by screening behaviour. However, in the Health Professionals Follow-up Study, screening behaviour was not found to differ appreciably between smokers and non-smokers. In an analysis limited to men with a negative digital rectal examination in the prior two years, stronger associations were found between smoking and metastatic prostate cancer risk among high intensity smokers (RR, 4.2; 95%CI: 1.6–10.9) (*Zu & Giovannucci*, 2009). This finding was evidence against bias from screening behaviour.]

## 2.16 Cancer of the ovary

### 2.16.1 Overview of studies

A total of over 30 epidemiological studies have investigated the association between tobacco smoking and ovarian cancer risk. Of these, 24 were case-control studies (IARC, 2004a; Table 2.76 available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-01-Table2.76.pdf>; Table 2.77 available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-01-Table2.77.pdf>) and six were cohort studies (IARC, 2004a; Table 2.78 available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-01-Table2.78.pdf>; Table 2.79 available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-01-Table2.79.pdf>). Most studies showed no statistically significant association between a measure of smoking and risk for ovarian cancer overall (Newhouse *et al.*, 1977; Smith *et al.*, 1984; Tzonou *et al.*, 1984; Baron *et al.*, 1986; Stockwell & Lyman, 1987; Whittemore *et al.*, 1988; Hartge *et al.*, 1989; Polychronopoulou *et al.*, 1993; Engeland *et al.*, 1996; Goodman *et al.*, 2001; Goodman & Tung, 2003; Pan *et al.*, 2004; Zhang *et al.*, 2004; Kurian *et al.*, 2005; Niwa *et al.*, 2005; Baker *et al.*, 2006; Huusom *et al.*, 2006; Fujita *et al.*, 2008; Lurie *et al.*, 2008; Nagle *et al.*, 2008; Tworoger *et al.*, 2008); some showed positive associations (Doll *et al.*, 1980; Tverdal *et al.*, 1993; Kuper *et al.*, 2000b; Marchbanks *et al.*, 2000; Green *et al.*, 2001; Modugno *et al.*, 2002; Gram *et al.*, 2008; Rossing *et al.*, 2008) and one (Riman *et al.*, 2004) showed an inverse association.

### 2.16.2 Histological subtypes

Differences in ovarian cancer risk factor profiles have been observed according to histological type, on the basis of which it has been suggested that mucinous and non-mucinous tumours are etiologically distinct diseases (Risch *et al.*, 1996). Epidemiological studies that have considered histological type tend to support a

positive association primarily between cigarette smoking and mucinous ovarian tumours (Kuper *et al.*, 2000b; Marchbanks *et al.*, 2000; Green *et al.*, 2001; Modugno *et al.*, 2002; Pan *et al.*, 2004; Zhang *et al.*, 2004; Kurian *et al.*, 2005; Tworoger *et al.*, 2008). In contrast, two studies showed no clear association between smoking and risk of mucinous or non-mucinous ovarian tumours (Riman *et al.*, 2004; Baker *et al.*, 2006). In addition, one early case-control study (Newhouse *et al.*, 1977), with 300 ovarian cancer cases and with both population and hospital controls, found no clear association with “ever” compared with “never” smoking, and reported no differences according to histological type.

A pooled analysis of 10 case-control studies (Kurian *et al.*, 2005) with 254 cases of mucinous and 1580 non-mucinous tumours found an increased risk of mucinous tumours among current smokers (RR, 2.4; 95%CI: 1.5–3.8), a positive association that was not observed with other histological types. Former smokers in that analysis did not have an increased risk of any histological type of ovarian cancer. This type of dose-response, whereby current smokers have a higher risk than former smokers, was observed in most, but not all, studies of mucinous ovarian cancer (Tables 2.77 and 2.79 online). Overall, the positive association between cigarette smoking and risk of mucinous ovarian tumours is generally consistent across both case-control and cohort studies conducted among various populations. In contrast, associations with smoking have been mostly null with respect to non-mucinous ovarian tumours, suggesting that recall bias is unlikely to explain the association with mucinous tumours.

[The Working Group considered the possibility that women who smoke may come to medical attention more frequently. This raises the possibility of detection bias, because mucinous tumours, benign or malignant, tend to be quite large and could be more easily detected on routine physical exam or testing. However, the

Working Group felt that detection bias would not account for the association entirely.

## 2.17 Cancer of the thyroid

The previous *IARC Monograph* ([IARC, 2004a](#)) noted inconsistent associations between smoking and thyroid cancer risk. In 2003, a pooled analysis of 14 case–control studies showed that smoking was inversely associated with thyroid cancer risk ([Mack et al., 2003](#); Table 2.80 available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-01-Table2.80.pdf>; Table 2.81 available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-01-Table2.81.pdf>). The sample consisted of 2725 thyroid cancer cases (2247 women, 478 men) and 4776 controls (3699 women, 1077 men). The inverse association was stronger among current smokers (RR, 0.6; 9% CI: 0.6–0.7) than former smokers (RR, 0.9; 9% CI: 0.8–1.1) and were similar in both men and women, for both papillary and follicular thyroid cancers, as well as by age and region. An inverse association between smoking and thyroid cancer risk was also found in a subsequent case–control study ([Nagano et al., 2007](#)). In contrast, two case–control studies ([Zivaljevic et al., 2004](#); [Bufalo et al., 2006](#)) reported no clear association between smoking and thyroid cancer risk (no risk ratio estimates were reported; hence, data are not shown in the tables) and a cohort study with 169 incident cases of thyroid cancer, also found no clear association with any qualitative or quantitative smoking measure ([Navarro Silvera et al., 2005](#); Table 2.82 available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-01-Table2.82.pdf>; Table 2.83 available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-01-Table2.83.pdf>).

## 2.18 Other cancers

The cancers reviewed in this section generally have low incidence and mortality rates and are not considered to be strongly associated with cigarette smoking. This raises the possibility of preferential reporting of positive associations in epidemiological studies.

### 2.18.1 Cancer of the salivary gland

Studies of smoking and cancers of the salivary gland reviewed in the previous *IARC Monograph* ([IARC, 2004a](#)) were sparse and their results were inconsistent ([Spitz et al., 1990](#); [Swanson & Burns, 1997](#); [Hayes et al., 1999](#)). A few additional studies also show inconsistent results ([Kotwall, 1992](#); [Pinkston & Cole, 1996](#); [Horn-Ross et al., 1997](#); [Vories & Ramirez, 1997](#); [Muscat & Wynder, 1998](#)). Studies that focused specifically on Warthin's tumour [papillary cystadenoma lymphomatosum or adenolymphoma, a benign tumour of the parotid gland] tend to show strong positive associations with smoking ([Kotwall, 1992](#); [Pinkston & Cole, 1996](#); [Vories & Ramirez, 1997](#)). One study ([Pinkston & Cole, 1996](#)) compared the risk for Warthin's tumour with that for other salivary gland tumours and found that smoking increased risk significantly only for Warthin's tumour.

### 2.18.2 Cancer of the small intestine

Epidemiological studies (all of case–control design) reviewed in the previous *IARC Monograph* ([IARC, 2004a](#)) have been inconsistent in showing a positive association between smoking and cancers of the small intestine ([Chow et al., 1993b](#); [Chen et al., 1994](#); [Wu et al., 1997](#); [Negri et al., 1999](#); [Kaerlev et al., 2002](#)). A more recent study showed no clear association ([Hassan et al., 2008b](#)).

### 2.18.3 Cancers of the gallbladder and extra-hepatic bile ducts

Epidemiological studies of smoking and risk of cancers of the gallbladder and extra-hepatic bile ducts reviewed in the previous *IARC Monograph* ([IARC, 2004a](#)) tended to show null, weak, or moderately strong positive associations. More recent studies also tend to show either no clear association with biliary tract carcinoma/extra-hepatic cholangiocarcinoma ([Shaib et al., 2007](#); [Welzel et al., 2007](#)) or suggest positive associations with gallbladder/biliary cancers ([Pandey & Shukla, 2003](#); [Yagyu et al., 2008](#); [Grainge et al., 2009](#)). Attention should be paid to potential confounders, especially BMI, when considering the results of epidemiological studies of risk of cancers of the gallbladder and extra-hepatic bile ducts. Recent studies that statistically adjusted for BMI, on gallbladder disease risk ([Grainge et al., 2009](#)) or on extrahepatic biliary tract carcinoma risk ([Ahrens et al., 2007](#)), showed a positive and null association with smoking, respectively. To date, there are too few studies with adequate control for potentially confounding factors to determine any clear pattern.

### 2.18.4 Soft-tissue sarcoma

As reported in the previous *IARC Monograph* ([IARC, 2004a](#)), one cohort study found an association between cigarette smoking and mortality from soft-tissue sarcoma after 26 years of follow-up but no dose-response relationship with the number of cigarettes/day, duration of smoking or pack-years ([Zahm et al., 1992](#)). No effect of cigarette smoking was detected in an Italian hospital-based case-control study ([Franceschi & Serraino, 1992](#)).

### 2.18.5 Cancer of the skin

#### (a) Melanoma

Several case-control studies found no difference in the prevalence of tobacco smoking between patients with malignant melanoma and controls, and one study found an inverse association ([IARC, 2004a](#)). An inverse association with smoking was also found in the US Radiologic Technologists cohort Study ([Freedman et al., 2003a](#)). In that study, smoking for at least 30 years compared with never smoking was inversely related to melanoma risk (RR, 0.6; 95%CI: 0.3–1.3), though risk was not associated with number of cigarettes/day. An inverse association was also observed in a cohort of Swedish construction workers ([Odenbro et al., 2007](#)). In this study, the risk for malignant melanoma was reduced in a dose-dependant manner for both cigarette and pipe smokers. The possibility that smoking may reduce the risk for melanoma should, therefore, be considered.

#### (b) Non-melanoma skin cancer

Four studies showed a positive association between smoking and non-melanoma skin cancer risk ([De Stefani et al., 1995](#); [Wojno, 1999](#); [Smith & Randle, 2001](#); [Boyd et al., 2002](#)), and two found no clear association ([van Dam et al., 1999](#); [Corona et al., 2001](#)). When distinguishing between histological subtypes, tobacco smoking was linked to the incidence of squamous-cell carcinoma of the skin in most studies, whereas the results for basal cell carcinoma remain inconsistent ([Zak-Prelich et al., 2004](#)). No clear association between smoking and risk for basal cell carcinoma was found in a cohort study ([Freedman et al., 2003b](#)).

### 2.18.6 Cancer of the penis

Case-control studies of smoking and penile cancer ([Hellberg et al., 1987](#); [Daling et al., 1992, 2005](#); [Maden et al., 1993](#); [Harish & Ravi, 1995](#);



Table 2.84 available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-01-Table2.84.pdf>; Table 2.85 available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-01-Table2.85.pdf>) and reviews of studies of smoking and penile cancer and population surveys (Dillner *et al.*, 2000; Favorito *et al.*, 2008; Bleeker *et al.*, 2009; Table 2.86 available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-01-Table2.86.pdf>; Table 2.87 available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-01-Table2.87.pdf>) consistently showed a positive association. In most studies there was a dose–response relationship, with higher risks among those with increased smoking intensity and/or duration. A study in Brazil showed a positive correlation with penile tumour grade (Favorito *et al.*, 2008). Based on the two reviews (Dillner *et al.*, 2000; Bleeker *et al.*, 2009), relative risks were generally increased twofold to fivefold among smokers.

Most studies did not adjust for HPV infection. In one case–control study (Daling *et al.*, 2005), current smoking was associated with a 160% increased risk of HPV-positive penile cancer ( $n = 75$ ), and a 180% increased risk of HPV-negative penile cancer ( $n = 19$ ), suggesting no important effect modification.

### 2.18.7 Cancer of the testis

Studies reviewed in the previous IARC Monograph (IARC, 2004a) showed no association between cigarette smoking and risk for testicular cancer. More recently, two case–control studies showed positive associations with smoking, one in Canada (Srivastava & Kreiger, 2004) and one in the Czech Republic (Dusek *et al.*, 2008).

### 2.18.8 Cancer of the central nervous system

A recent meta-analysis was conducted on smoking in relation to glioma risk (Mandelzweig *et al.*, 2009), which included 17 epidemiological

studies (6 cohort and 11 case–control). It was concluded that smoking is not associated with risk of glioma, despite a small significant increased risk seen in cohort studies. A recent cohort study found no association between smoking and carcinoma of the brain (Batty *et al.*, 2008). There have been no consistent associations of smoking with other CNS tumours (IARC, 2004a). In a population-based case–control study in the USA, smoking was associated with increased risk of intracranial meningioma in men (OR, 2.1; 95%CI: 1.1–4.2) but not in women (Phillips *et al.*, 2005).

### 2.18.9 Cancer of the adrenal gland

Data on risk factors for adrenal carcinoma are sparse. In the US Veterans' Study there was a fivefold increase in risk among current cigarette smokers during 26 years of follow-up, with risk being particularly high among those who smoked most intensely (Chow *et al.*, 1996). Other forms of tobacco use were associated with a statistically non-significant increase in risk. A case–control study in the USA found a twofold increase in risk for adrenal cancer among heavy smokers in men, but not in women (Hsing *et al.*, 1996).

## 2.19 Bidi smoking

### 2.19.1 Cancer of the oral cavity

#### (a) Overview of studies

The association between cancers of oral cavity and bidi smoking has been examined in 10 case–control studies conducted in India (Sankaranarayanan *et al.*, 1989a, b, 1990a; Rao *et al.*, 1994; Rao & Desai, 1998; Dikshit & Kanhere, 2000; Balaram *et al.*, 2002; Znaor *et al.*, 2003; Subapriya *et al.*, 2007; Muwonge *et al.*, 2008; Table 2.88 available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-01-Table2.88.pdf>). In these studies both cases and controls were interviewed and analyses were restricted

to men, except for the studies by [Balaram \*et al.\* \(2002\)](#) and [Subapriya \*et al.\* \(2007\)](#), because very few women smoked among study subjects.

Three hospital-based case-control studies considered cancers of subsites of the oral cavity (gingiva, tongue and floor of the mouth, buccal and labial mucosa) ([Sankaranarayanan \*et al.\*, 1989a, b, 1990a](#)). All three studies showed a higher oral cancer risk for bidi smoking. In one early study an unadjusted relative risk of 1.6 (95%CI: 1.3–2.0) for oral cancer in bidi smokers was reported ([Rao \*et al.\*, 1994](#)). [The Working Group noted that the study had several deficiencies, particularly in the selection of controls that resulted in cigarette smoking apparently being protective for oral cancer.] In another early study ([Rao & Desai, 1998](#)) relative risks were estimated after stratification by age and place of residence. Bidi smoking was a significant risk factor for cancer of the base of the tongue (RR, 5.9; 95%CI: 4.2–8.2) but not significant for cancer of the anterior tongue. Relative risk for bidi smoking adjusted for alcohol drinking, illiteracy, non-vegetarian diet and tobacco chewing showed significant risk for cancer of the base of the tongue (RR, 4.7; 95%CI: 3.5–6.3) but not for cancer of the anterior tongue. In a population-based case-control study a relative risk of 1.5 (95%CI: 0.9–2.4), adjusted for age and tobacco quid chewing for smokers (bidis and/or cigarettes), was found ([Dikshit & Kanhere, 2000](#)).

Two hospital-based multi centre case-control studies on cancer of the oral cavity were conducted in southern India. One included 309 cases and 292 controls ([Balaram \*et al.\*, 2002](#)). The risk for oral cavity cancer among those who smoked < 20 bidis per day was 2.0 (95%CI: 1.1–3.8) and 2.5 (95%CI: 1.4–4.4) for ≥ 20 per day. The second study included 1563 cases and 3638 controls and found a risk for bidi smoking only of 2.2 (95%CI: 1.75–2.63) compared to never smokers, adjusted for age, centre, level of education, alcohol consumption and chewing ([Znaor \*et al.\*, 2003](#)).

In a hospital-based case-control study with 388 oral squamous cell carcinoma cases (202 men and 186 women) and an equal number of age and sex-matched controls the effect of life-style factors (tobacco chewing, smoking and alcohol drinking, diet and dental care) on the risk of oral cancer was evaluated ([Subapriya \*et al.\*, 2007](#)). Both cases and controls were interviewed using a structured questionnaire. The risk estimate for bidi smoking based on 22 cases (84 cases included in the model) and 22 controls was 4.6 (95%CI not given).

Data from a randomized control trial conducted between 1996 and 2004 in Trivandrum, southern India were used in a nested case-control analysis with 282 (163 men and 119 women) incident oral cancer cases and 1410 matched population controls aged 35 years and over ([Muwonge \*et al.\*, 2008](#)). Oral cancer risk among men, adjusted for education and religion, was 1.9 (95%CI: 1.1–3.2) for bidi smokers only compared to never smokers. No association was found between mixed smoking of bidi and cigarette and risk of oral cancer.

[Rahman \*et al.\* \(2003\)](#) performed a meta-analysis to investigate the relationship between bidi smoking and oral cancer. They identified 12 case-control studies published in English during 1996–2002 with quantitative information on bidi smoking and oral cancer. Of these, ten studies were conducted in India, one in Sri Lanka and one in Pakistan. All cases were confirmed histologically and exposure data were collected by direct interview. In these studies ORs were not adjusted for tobacco chewing or alcohol drinking. The OR for bidi smokers compared to never smokers based on random effects model was 3.1 (95%CI: 2.0–5.0). The ORs ranged from 2.0 to 3.6 in different regions of India: studies conducted in Mumbai had an OR of 3.6 (95%CI: 1.6–7.9), in central India 2.7 (95%CI: 1.6–4.6), in Kerala 2.0 (95%CI: 1.5–2.9) and in Bangalore 2.0 (95%CI: 1.1–3.7).



*(b) Dose–response evidence*

The trends in relative risks by intensity and duration of bidi smoking were both statistically significant in two studies ([Rao et al., 1994](#); [Rao & Desai, 1998](#)). A meta-analysis based on three studies on duration of bidi smoking and on five studies on number of bidi sticks per day, showed a dose–response relationship for duration of bidi smoking but not for number of sticks used per day ([Rahman et al., 2003](#)).

In a nested case–control analysis ([Muwonge et al., 2008](#)) a dose–response relationship was observed for duration of bidi smoking ( $P = 0.045$ ). [It is not clear if the analysis was restricted to bidi smokers only ( $n = 40$  men) and if smokers with combined smoking habits (bidi and cigarette) were excluded. Moreover, ORs for the dose–response analysis were not reported.]

*2.19.2 Cancer of the pharynx*

Five case–control studies, two hospital-based ([Wasnik et al., 1998](#); [Rao et al., 1999](#)), one population-based ([Dikshit & Kanhere, 2000](#)) and two multicentric studies ([Znaor et al., 2003](#); [Sapkota et al., 2007](#)) were conducted on cancers of oropharynx and hypopharynx in India (Table 2.88 online). In all these studies, analyses were restricted to men because very few women smoked among study subjects.

[Wasnik et al. \(1998\)](#) conducted a case–control study on oropharyngeal cancers with cases and controls were matched on age and sex. Odds ratios for tobacco smoking, predominantly in the form of bidi and/or chillum, were 2.3 (95%CI: 1.2–3.7) after adjustment for tobacco chewing and outdoor occupation. [The Working Group noted some problems with the data analysis.]

[Rao et al. \(1999\)](#) reported a relative risk for bidi smoking adjusted for alcohol, illiteracy, diet and tobacco chewing of 4.7 (3.6–6.3) for oropharyngeal cancer and of 2.8 (2.1–3.7) for cancer of the hypopharynx. [Dikshit & Kanhere \(2000\)](#) found

an odds ratio for oropharyngeal cancer among bidi smokers only of 7.9 (95%CI: 5.1–12.4).

[Znaor et al. \(2003\)](#) reported a risk for bidi smoking only for pharyngeal cancer of 4.7 (95%CI: 3.5–6.3) and for combined bidi and cigarette smoking of 3.6 (95%CI: 2.55–4.98). [Sapkota et al. \(2007\)](#) reported an odds ratio for hypopharyngeal cancer of 6.8 (95%CI: 4.6–10.0) for bidi smokers compared to never smokers.

A dose–response relationship was observed for intensity and duration of bidi smoking for both cancers of oropharynx and hypopharynx ([Rao et al., 1999](#); [Dikshit & Kanhere, 2000](#); [Sapkota et al., 2007](#)).

*2.19.3 Cancer of the lung*

One cohort study ([Jayalekshmy et al., 2008](#)), one population-based case–control study ([Dikshit & Kanhere, 2000](#)) and two hospital-based case–control studies ([Gupta et al., 2001](#); [Gajalakshmi et al., 2003](#)) in India (Table 2.88 online) have investigated the relationship between bidi smoking and lung cancer. In all these studies both cases and controls were interviewed and analyses were restricted to men because very few women smoked among study subjects. One hospital-based case–control study in Chiang Mai, Thailand, looked at the association between lung cancer and *khii yoo*, hand-rolled cigars. The risk for lung cancer for *khii yoo* smoking was 1.2 in men and 1.5 in women,  $P > 0.05$  ([Simarak et al., 1977](#)).

In the population based case–control study by [Dikshit & Kanhere \(2000\)](#) the age-adjusted relative risk for lung cancer among bidi smokers only was 11.6 (95%CI: 6.4–21.3).

[Gupta et al. \(2001\)](#) reported an odds ratio for bidi smoking of 5.8 (95%CI: 3.4–9.7) from a hospital-based case–control study of lung cancer conducted in Chandigarh. [Gajalakshmi et al. \(2003\)](#) conducted a case–control study in two centres in which all subjects were interviewed by trained social investigators with standard

questionnaires. Odds ratios were adjusted for age, educational level, centre, chewing and alcohol habit. The odds ratios of lung cancer for former and current bidi smokers were 3.4 (95%CI: 2.1–5.4) and 5.3 (95%CI: 3.8–7.3), respectively. Odds ratios for former and current smokers of cigarette and bidi combined were 4.0 (95%CI: 2.5–6.6) and 9.1 (95%CI: 6.2–13.2), respectively.

Baseline data of a cohort of 359 619 residents in Kerala, India was collected by direct interview using standardized questionnaires during 1990–97 ([Jayalekshmy et al., 2008](#)). After excluding rare earth workers, those who died, were diagnosed with cancer before 1997 or died within three years of interview, there were 65 829 bidi-smoking men aged 30–84 years old. Two hundred and twelve lung cancer cases were identified by the Karunagappally Cancer Registry between 1997 and 2004. The relative risk for lung cancer for current compared to never bidi smokers calculated by Poisson regression analysis and adjusted for age, religion and education was 3.9 (95%CI: 2.6–6.0;  $P < 0.001$ ). The risk was lower among former than among current smokers.

#### (a) Dose–response evidence

Lung cancer risks increased with increasing bidi smoking intensities. The highest odds ratio was found for 9 pack-years (3.9; 95%CI: 2.1–7.1) ([Gupta et al., 2001](#)). In a cohort study [Jayalekshmy et al. \(2008\)](#) found increased lung cancer incidence with increasing number of bidi sticks smoked per day ( $P < 0.001$ ) and with increasing duration of bidi smoking ( $P < 0.001$ ). [The number of lung cancer cases was small in each category, resulting in wide confidence intervals.] [Gajalakshmi et al. \(2003\)](#) also reported increased risk with duration and intensity of bidi smoking.

#### (b) Cessation of smoking

In two case–control studies ([Gupta et al., 2001](#); [Gajalakshmi et al., 2003](#)) there was a clear decreasing trend in risk for years since quitting.

[Gajalakshmi et al. \(2003\)](#) reported that lung cancer risk of former bidi smokers fell to 0.4 (0.1–1.2) after quitting for more than 15 years. The cohort study conducted in Kerala did not have the power to assess the risk associated with stopping bidi smoking ([Jayalekshmy et al., 2008](#)).

### 2.19.4 Cancer of the larynx

Two hospital based case–control studies ([Sankaranarayanan et al., 1990b](#); [Rao et al., 1999](#)) showed a higher risk for bidi smokers (Table 2.88 online). The relative risk was adjusted for age and religion in [Sankaranarayanan et al. \(1990b\)](#) study and for alcohol use, illiteracy, vegetarian/non-vegetarian diet and tobacco chewing in [Rao et al. \(1999\)](#) study. A multicentre case–control study on laryngeal cancer was conducted in four Indian centres using standardized questionnaires adjusting risks for centre, age, socio-economic status, alcohol consumption, tobacco snuffing and tobacco chewing ([Sapkota et al., 2007](#)). Compared to never smokers bidi smokers had a higher risk for cancers of the supraglottis (OR, 7.5; 95%CI: 3.8–14.7), glottis (OR, 5.3; 95%CI: 3.2–8.9) and rest of larynx (OR, 9.6; 95%CI: 5.6–16.4).

All levels of intensity and duration of bidi smoking were associated with significant relative risk estimates and dose–response for laryngeal cancer ([Sankaranarayanan et al., 1990b](#); [Rao et al., 1999](#)). A strong dose–response relationship was observed for duration and frequency of bidi smoking for cancers of supraglottis, glottis and rest of larynx ([Sapkota et al., 2007](#)).

### 2.19.5 Cancer of the oesophagus

Three hospital-based case–control studies and one multicentre study ([Sankaranarayanan et al., 1991](#); [Nandakumar et al., 1996](#); [Nayar et al., 2000](#); [Znaor et al., 2003](#)) showed increased risk for oesophageal cancer among bidi smokers in India (Table 2.88 online). A significantly elevated

risk for all three segments of the oesophagus was reported (Nandakumar *et al.*, 1996). One study (Nayar *et al.*, 2000) adjusted for chewing of betel leaf with tobacco and low consumption of vegetables other than leafy vegetables. The multicentre case–control study conducted in two centres in South India found an increased risk for oesophageal cancer for bidi smoking only (OR, 3.3; 95%CI: 2.45–4.39) (Znaor *et al.*, 2003). Odds ratios were adjusted for age, centre, level of education, alcohol consumption and chewing. Only men were analysed in all the above studies.

Significant effects were noted in men for all levels of intensity and for duration of more than 20 years of bidi smoking (Sankaranarayanan *et al.*, 1991).

### 2.19.6 Cancer of the stomach

In a hospital-based case–control study the association between stomach cancer and bidi smoking was analysed as part of a multicentre study (Gajalakshmi & Shanta, 1996). Cases and controls were matched on age, sex, religion and mother tongue. The odds ratio for stomach cancer for current bidi smokers only was 3.2 (95%CI: 1.8–5.7) and for current smokers of any type of tobacco was 2.7 (95%CI: 1.8–4.1).

Table 2.88 (online) summarizes the studies published since the last IARC Monograph (IARC, 2004a). A hospital-based case–control study of stomach cancer included 170 stomach cancer cases (121 men and 49 women) and 2184 controls (1309 men and 875 women) aged 30–75 years (Rao *et al.*, 2002). The association between bidi smoking and stomach cancer was not significant (RR, 0.8; 95%CI: 0.5–1.2) in a univariate analysis. The risk increased with increase in lifetime exposure to bidi smoking and was highly significant ( $P < 0.001$ ).

One study investigated stomach cancer risk in association with smoking of *meiziol*, a local cigarette in Mizoram, India (Phukan *et al.*, 2005). Statistically significant higher risks were seen for

smokers of combined users of tobacco (cigarette and *meiziol*), with an odds ratio of 3.1 (95%CI: 2.0–11.1). Among users of a single type of tobacco, higher risks were seen for *meiziol* smokers (OR, 2.2; 95%CI: 1.3–9.3) in the multivariate model in comparison to cigarette smokers. Overall, the excess risk was limited to smokers of  $> 10$  *meiziols* per day.

## 2.20 Synergistic effects of tobacco smoking and alcohol drinking

This section addresses the combined effects of smoking and alcohol consumption on cancers of oral cavity, pharynx, larynx and oesophagus, which have been examined extensively. For the purposes of this report interdependence of effects is termed *effect modification*, and *synergism* and *antagonism* are used to describe the consequences of the interdependence of disease risk when both risk factors are present (Rothman & Greenland, 1998). The studies varied in their methods and in the approaches used to assess effect modification, which ranged from descriptive to formal estimation of interaction terms in multivariate models. Study designs of the case–control and cohort studies are presented in Table 2.89 (available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-01-Table2.89.pdf>) and Table 2.90 (available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-01-Table2.90.pdf>), respectively; and the results for both study designs are presented in Table 2.91 (available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-01-Table2.91.pdf>).

### 2.20.1 Cancers of the upper aerodigestive tract

It was noted in the previous IARC Monograph (IARC, 2004a) with relatively large numbers of cases and controls that the pattern of increasing cancer risk with increasing alcohol consumption is strong (Mashberg *et al.*, 1993; Kabat *et al.*, 1994).

For cancers of the oral cavity, recent evidence comes from seven case-control studies and one cohort study. The pattern of odds ratios for smoking, across categories of alcohol consumption, is consistent with synergism. In four case-control studies with relatively large numbers of cases and controls (more than 200 cases and equivalent number of controls), the pattern of increasing cancer risks with increasing alcohol consumption was strong ([Schlecht \*et al.\*, 1999b](#); [Znaor \*et al.\*, 2003](#); [Castellsagué \*et al.\*, 2004](#); [Hashibe \*et al.\*, 2009](#)). In the cohort study from Taiwan, China ([Yen \*et al.\*, 2008](#)) similar strong risks were also observed. In all four case-control studies in which the estimate of formal statistical interaction was examined, the tests were statistically significant ([Schlecht \*et al.\*, 1999b](#); [Znaor \*et al.\*, 2003](#); [Castellsagué \*et al.\*, 2004](#); [Hashibe \*et al.\*, 2009](#)). In two case-control studies from India ([Znaor \*et al.\*, 2003](#); [Muwonge \*et al.\*, 2008](#)) and in the cohort study from Taiwan, China ([Yen \*et al.\*, 2008](#)) the interaction of tobacco smoking, alcohol and betel quid chewing was examined. In general, the results suggested increasing risks when betel quid chewing was included in the model.

Five case-control studies and one cohort study examined the effect of interaction between tobacco and alcohol in pharyngeal cancer. The results from case-control studies were similar to those observed for oral cancer ([Olsen \*et al.\*, 1985b](#); [Choi & Kahyo, 1991](#); [Schlecht \*et al.\*, 1999b](#); [Znaor \*et al.\*, 2003](#); [Hashibe \*et al.\*, 2009](#)). In a Singapore cohort study ([Friborg \*et al.\*, 2007](#)) the pattern of odds ratios for smoking across categories of alcohol consumption was consistent with synergism for oropharyngeal but not for nasopharyngeal cancer.

Two cohort and fourteen case-control studies reported on joint effects of tobacco smoking and alcohol drinking on the risk for oesophageal cancer. Since multiple logistic regression models were used for analysing most of these studies, some of them tested likelihood ratio test

for departure from multiplicativity of the individual effects of tobacco and alcohol. Generally, the positive results were stronger for squamous cell carcinoma. However, these tests for interaction are inadequate to assess synergy. Four studies from India and Taiwan, China, included betel quid chewing to the joint effect analysis of tobacco smoking and alcohol consumption and the results suggested increasing risks of oesophageal cancer.

Most of the twenty case-control studies of laryngeal cancer provided strong evidence for synergism of tobacco smoking and alcohol consumption. Only [Zheng \*et al.\* \(1992\)](#) did not find consistent evidence with synergism. In several studies, tests for interaction were carried out and reported to be 'non significant.' These were tests for departure from the multiplicative models, typically multiple logistic regression models, used to analyse the case-control data, and not tests for departure from additive model.

Several studies (14 case-control, 3 cohort) reported on cancer of the 'mixed upper aerodigestive tract', comprising studies on squamous cell carcinomas, regardless of specific sites. These studies also provided strong evidence for synergism.

The Working Group considers that there is strong evidence of tobacco smoking and alcohol consumption interaction on the incidence of upper aerodigestive tract cancers, as well as with regard to cancer of specific subsites of this anatomical region.

## 2.21 Synthesis

### 2.21.1 Lung

Tobacco smoking is the major cause of lung cancer, primarily from cigarettes. Duration of smoking is the strongest determinant of lung cancer in smokers. Risk also increases in proportion to the number of cigarettes smoked. The strong dose- and duration-response



relationships between lung cancer and tobacco smoking have been confirmed more recently in both questionnaire-based and biomarker-based studies. Tobacco smoking increases the risk of all histological types of lung cancer.

Differences in the intensity and/or duration of tobacco smoking may explain, in part, the lower lung cancer risks in Asian populations relative to whites. However, several studies of genetic polymorphisms among African-American and Caucasian populations provide some preliminary evidence supporting the hypothesis of a racial/ethnic disparity in susceptibility.

The results from observational studies do not provide strong support that a higher intake or a greater circulating concentration of carotenoids reduce lung cancer risk, particular in light of the elevated risk of lung cancer observed in the randomized trials of  $\beta$ -carotene supplementation. Residual confounding from smoking and the possibility that carotenoid measurements are serving as markers for a diet rich in total fruit and vegetables mitigate the likelihood of any protective role for total carotenoids or  $\beta$ -cryptoxanthins.

The specific genes that are responsible for enhanced lung cancer risk remain poorly understood, in spite of hundreds of candidate gene studies. Single-gene studies conducted to date have several limitations which contribute to inconclusive results, including small sample size and associated low power to detect moderate risks when allele frequencies are low.

### 2.21.2 Upper aerodigestive tract

#### (a) Oral cavity

Tobacco smoking is causally associated with cancer of the oral cavity in both men and women. Since the previous *Monograph*, additional evidence has accumulated that further confirms the association. Risk increases with duration and intensity of smoking, and decreases after quitting.

#### (b) Pharynx

Tobacco smoking is an important cause of oropharyngeal and hypopharyngeal cancers. The risk increases with increasing duration and intensity of smoking and decreases with increasing time since quitting.

#### (c) Nasal cavity and accessory sinuses

The evidence of an association between tobacco smoking and sinonasal cancer is based on the results from case-control studies, each of which may be subject to different sources of bias. However, presence of a dose-response relationship in most studies, the decrease in risk associated with time since quitting, the consistently higher risks for squamous-cell carcinoma than for adenocarcinoma and the lack of potential confounders support the existence of a causal association.

#### (d) Nasopharynx

Although the interpretation of the results is complicated by small sample sizes in several studies, by different criteria used for the selection of controls and by the control groups in some studies including smoking-related diseases, the combined evidence shows an association between tobacco smoking and nasopharyngeal carcinoma in both endemic and non-endemic areas. Most studies that adjusted for known and suspected causes of nasopharyngeal carcinoma such as intake of Chinese-style salted fish, other dietary factors, alcohol drinking and family history of nasopharyngeal carcinoma, suggested only a limited confounding effect of these factors. Adjustment for infection with Epstein-Barr virus (human herpes virus 4), a major cause of nasopharyngeal carcinoma worldwide, was possible in just one of the available studies. However, it is unlikely that confounding by infection with Epstein-Barr virus would explain the observed association between tobacco smoking and risk for nasopharyngeal carcinoma.



*(e) Oesophagus*

Several well conducted case-control studies found a statistically significant higher risk for adenocarcinoma of the oesophagus in smokers than in nonsmokers. Positive dose-response relationships obtained using various indicators of amount smoked support a causal association, which is further corroborated by the findings of decreasing risks after smoking cessation. Several of these studies reported relative risks adjusted for alcohol consumption and other potential confounders. Further risk factors, such as chewing betel quid with tobacco or use of other forms of smokeless tobacco, have not been considered in these populations, but are not likely to be strong confounders. Studies from Australia, China and Europe also found increased risks for smokers.

*(f) Larynx*

Laryngeal cancer is one of the cancers most strongly associated with cigarette smoking. Recent epidemiological evidence strengthens this conclusion.

*2.21.3 Stomach*

The additional epidemiologic data showing a consistent association of stomach cancer with tobacco smoking in both men and women greatly strengthens the previous conclusion of a causal association. There was insufficient evidence for differential risks between cardia and non-cardia stomach cancer. Confounding and effect modification by *H. pylori* has not been found.

*2.21.4 Pancreas*

The additional data supports the previous evaluation that cancer of the pancreas is causally associated with tobacco smoking. The risk increases with increasing daily consumption levels and duration of smoking and decreases with increasing time since cessation of smoking.

The risk remains elevated after accounting for potential confounding factors.

*2.21.5 Colorectum*

At the previous evaluation, there was already some evidence from prospective cohort and case-control studies that the risk of colorectal cancer is increased among tobacco smokers. However, inadequate adjustment for various potential confounders was considered to possibly account for some of the small increase in risk that appears to be associated with smoking. Since then, an appreciable amount of data has accumulated to support a causal association with smoking. In virtually all the cohort studies published since elevated risk associated with smoking was found, although not always statistically significant. More than half of the cohort studies that assessed dose-response relationships found statistically significant increasing risks with increasing daily cigarette consumption, duration of smoking and/or pack-years of smoking. Risk of colorectal cancer decreased with increasing delay in smoking initiation and years since cessation of smoking. A meta-analysis based on 36 cohort studies with data from a total of 3 million subjects found a significantly 15% increased risk of colorectal cancer and 27% higher risk of colorectal cancer mortality in current smokers compared to never smokers. A stronger association with smoking for rectal cancer than for colon cancer was found in the meta-analysis of the subset of cohort studies that differentiated colorectal cancer by site. Risk for colorectal cancer increased significantly by 17% and by 38% with 20 cigarettes and 40 cigarettes/day, respectively, and was elevated by 9.4% and by 19.7% with a 20-year and a 40-year duration of smoking, respectively. While these results are persuasive, this meta-analysis could not correct for the potential confounders in the individual studies. Convincing evidence has been provided by three large cohort studies that adjusted for at

least four important potential confounders (i.e. physical activity, alcohol consumption, body mass index and dietary intake of fruits and vegetables and/or meat); two studies also adjusted for history of colonoscopy. Significant dose–response relationships were found with one or more of the smoking variables, for risk of colorectal cancer and/or colon cancer and/or rectal cancer. Earlier cohort studies may not have been able to establish the association because of insufficient follow-up time and a limited number of cases. Updated results of several large cohort studies, which now show clearly significant increased risk of colorectal cancer associated with smoking, provide support for the lag-time hypothesis for smoking and colorectal risk.

Recent evidence suggests that smoking may be associated with the subtype of colorectal cancer characterized by microsatellite instability, and by CIMP status and BRAF mutation. For this subtype, the magnitude of risk associated with smoking reaches the twofold risk elevation consistently observed for colorectal adenomas and supported by a recent meta-analysis. Smoking has been associated with a stronger risk for hyperplastic polyps than for adenomas. Also, CIMP positivity and BRAF mutations have been associated with hyperplastic polyps, particularly serrated polyps. These data suggest that smoking may be associated primarily with a subtype of colorectal cancer that develops through a hyperplastic (serrated) polyp progression. The association with smoking may therefore be diluted when considering colon cancers overall.

#### 2.21.6 Liver

Recent studies on smoking and hepatocellular carcinoma supports the established causal relationship. Supporting evidence comes from the consistency of the findings across regions (with the best evidence coming from Asian studies), and the observations of an association among non-drinkers and after controlling for hepatitis B or C virus infection.

#### 2.21.7 Kidney

Recent evidence supports a causal association between kidney cancer and smoking. After adjustment for body mass index and hypertension, current and former smokers still had a greater risk for renal-cell cancer. A dose–response relationship with the number of cigarettes smoked has been noted in most studies, and a few also noted a reduction in risk after cessation.

#### 2.21.8 Urinary bladder

Tobacco smoking is causally associated to bladder cancer, based on a large number of case–control and cohort studies that showed statistically significant associations not explained by confounding or bias. Risk increased with the duration of smoking and the number of cigarettes smoked. Also, stopping smoking at any age avoids the further increase in risk incurred by continued smoking. The evidence supporting a modulating role by *NAT2* polymorphisms is convincing.

#### 2.21.9 Myeloid leukaemia

There is evidence for a causal association of tobacco smoking with myeloid leukaemia.

#### 2.21.10 Breast

New evidence from cohort and case–control studies and from meta-analyses of genetic polymorphisms has become available since the previous *IARC Monograph* ([IARC, 2004a](#)). Results from seven new cohort studies consistently show a small overall association between current smoking and breast cancer incidence, with relative risk estimates ranging from 1.1–1.3 in studies with at least 100 exposed cases. The overall association is weaker than that observed with other cancers that have been designated as causally related to smoking, and the dose–response relationships (with years of smoking,

cigarettes smoked per day, age at initiation) are correspondingly small.

Emerging evidence from case-control studies suggests that inherited polymorphisms in the *NAT2* gene, which encode the slow acetylator phenotype, may modify (increase) the association between smoking and breast cancer. The p-value for interaction with pack-years of smoking as a continuous variable is statistically significant ( $P = 0.03$ ) and another small study published since this meta-analysis supports the conclusion. The potential for publication bias remains of concern.

It is biologically plausible that tobacco smoke could be causally related to breast cancer risk. There are multiple chemicals in tobacco smoke that are known to cause mammary cancer in rodents. These substances reach the breast in humans; some are stored in adipose tissue, and some can be detected in nipple aspirate and DNA adducts.

Hypotheses have been proposed to explain why numerous well conducted epidemiological studies have generally not observed strong or consistent associations between tobacco smoking and breast cancer. Underlying all of these is the theory that tobacco smoking may have both protective and detrimental effects on breast cancer risk, which cancel each other out and which could explain the atypical dose-response relationship that has been reported between tobacco smoke and breast cancer from some studies.

### 2.21.11 Cervix

The largely positive findings observed in studies of cohort design, the relatively high consistency of positive associations found for squamous-cell carcinoma of the cervix (but not adenocarcinomas) across all epidemiological studies, including those with adjustment for a wide range of potentially confounding variables, and the positive associations observed in studies

restricted to HPV-positive individuals, all argue against the observed positive association being due to recall or selection bias or confounding.

### 2.21.12 Endometrium

The results of epidemiological studies to date, including recent studies, largely show inverse associations of smoking with risk of postmenopausal endometrial cancer. However, the Working Group noted the few studies of premenopausal cancer that were less consistent, as well as indications of an increased risk among smokers in a recent multicentre European study.

### 2.21.13 Prostate

Many epidemiological studies have examined the association between cigarette smoking and prostate cancer risk, and most have shown no consistent association. The question remains whether smoking may alter risk in various population subgroups.

### 2.21.14 Ovary

A causal association between cigarette smoking and risk for mucinous ovarian tumours is indicated by 1) the consistency of the positive association across the large majority of ten pooled case-control studies and ten additional independent epidemiological studies of both case-control and cohort design, 2) the relatively strong magnitude of the association (typically greater than a doubling of risk among current smokers), 3) the tendency to show dose-response associations with risk, such that current smokers generally have higher risk than former smokers and the dose-response observed with measures of smoking intensity in some (but not all) studies, and 4) the specificity of the positive association with the mucinous histological type, which argues against recall bias as an explanation of the findings.

### 2.21.15 Thyroid

A pooled analysis of 14 case–control studies showed that smoking was inversely associated with thyroid cancer risk. Similar inverse associations were also observed in two subsequent case–control studies.

### 2.21.16 Other sites

There is inconsistent or sparse evidence for an association between tobacco smoking and other cancer sites that were considered by the Working Group.

### 2.21.17 Bidi smoking

Overall, bidi smoking increases the risk for cancers of the oral cavity, oropharynx, hypopharynx, larynx, lung, oesophagus and stomach.

## 3. Cancer in Experimental Animals

### 3.1 Mainstream tobacco smoke

#### 3.1.1 Mouse

There have been multiple studies of the carcinogenic potential of tobacco smoke in mice ([Table 3.1](#)). Lifetime exposure of several mouse strains to cigarette smoke failed to result in the production of lung tumours ([Harris & Negroni, 1967](#); [Otto & Elmenhorst, 1967](#); [Henry & Kouri, 1986](#)). However, studies involving lifetime exposure of C57BL mice to a mixture of flue-cured or air-cured cigarette smoke or to the gas phase of flue-cured cigarette smoke led to significant increases in the number of lung tumours (adenomas) ([Harris \*et al.\*, 1974](#)). Similarly, lifetime exposure of Snell's mice to the gas phase of cigarette smoke led to an increased incidence of lung adenocarcinomas ([Leuchtenberger & Leuchtenberger, 1970](#)). Exposure of B6C3F<sub>1</sub>

female mice to smoke for lifetime led to increased incidence of lung adenomas, bronchiolar papillomas and lung adenocarcinomas in smoke-exposed mice. In addition, the occurrence of squamous cell carcinomas of the nasal cavity in smoke-exposed mice was increased ([Hutt \*et al.\*, 2005](#)). In a recent study, Swiss mice were exposed whole-body to cigarette smoke for 120 days, starting within 12 hours of the birth. Smoke-exposed mice developed microscopic lung tumours beginning only 75 days after birth and reaching an overall incidence of 78.3% after 181–230 days. The mean lung tumour multiplicity was 6.1 and 13.6 tumours per mouse in males and females, respectively. In addition, malignant tumours, some of which may have had a metastatic origin, were detected in the urinary tract of smoke-exposed mice ([Balansky \*et al.\*, 2007](#)).

#### 3.1.2 Rat

Several studies have evaluated the carcinogenic potential of mainstream tobacco smoke in rats ([Table 3.1](#)). Exposure of Wistar rats to cigarette smoke for lifetime did not increase the lung tumour incidence ([Davis \*et al.\*, 1975](#)). In contrast, exposure of Fischer 344 rats to a mixture of non-filter cigarette smoke for 128 weeks resulted in an increased incidence of nasal and lung tumours. There was also an increase in subcutaneous sarcomas at forelimb ulceration sites ([Dalbey \*et al.\*, 1980](#)). CDF rats were exposed to low-dose cigarette smoke (LCS) or high-dose cigarette smoke (HCS) for 126 weeks. The incidence of lung tumours was significantly higher only in female rats that received HCS ([Finch \*et al.\*, 1995](#)). In a recent study, Fischer 344 rats received whole body exposure to smoke containing either 100 mg (LCS) or 250 mg (HCS) total particulate matter/m<sup>3</sup> for 30 months. This led to significant increases in the incidence of lung and nasal cavity tumours in male rats treated with HCS but not with LCS. In female rats, there were significant increases in the incidence of lung adenomas



in animals treated with HCS and of all lung tumours in animals treated with both LCS and HCS. There was also a significant increase in the occurrence of nasal cavity tumours in female rats treated with HCS ([Mauderly et al., 2004](#)).

### 3.1.3 Hamster

Four studies have evaluated the ability of mainstream tobacco smoke to induce tumours in hamsters ([Table 3.1](#)). Syrian golden hamsters were exposed to either a mixture of German reference cigarette smoke or of dark air-cured cigarette smoke for lifetime. There were increases in the incidence of laryngeal carcinomas in hamsters exposed to both smoke preparations ([Dontenwill et al., 1973](#)). In a subsequent study, hamsters were exposed to a mixture of German reference cigarette smoke containing 1.5 mg nicotine, 0.173 mg phenol and 12.7 mL carbon monoxide/cigarette for lifetime. The incidence of laryngeal tumours in smoke-exposed hamsters was higher than in controls ([Dontenwill et al., 1977](#)). BIO male hamsters exposed to a mixture of US reference smoke for 100 weeks developed laryngeal and nasopharyngeal tumours ([Bernfeld et al., 1974](#)). In a subsequent study, male BIO hamsters exposed to smoke from commercial British filter cigarettes developed higher incidence of laryngeal tumours than controls ([Bernfeld et al., 1979](#)).

## 3.2 Co-administration of tobacco smoke with known carcinogens and other agents

Study design and results of the studies on co-administration of tobacco smoke with known carcinogens and other agents are summarized in [Table 3.2](#).

### 3.2.1 Rat

#### (a) Benzo[a]pyrene

Wistar rats received a single intratracheal instillation of 2 mg benzo[a]pyrene followed by lifetime exposure to cigarette smoke. This treatment led to a low incidence of lung tumours that was not significantly higher than in controls ([Davis et al., 1975](#)). In another study Wistar rats were given intratracheal instillations of benzo[a]pyrene mixed with ferric oxide and exposed to cigarette smoke either during initiation and post-initiation or only after treatment with benzo[a]pyrene/ferric oxide (post-initiation). Inhalation of cigarette smoke during the initiation and post-initiation phases of carcinogenesis resulted in a higher lung tumour (squamous-cell carcinoma) multiplicity than that seen in rats exposed during the post-initiation phase only ([Gupta et al., 1990](#)).

#### (b) Radon progeny

Sprague-Dawley rats were exposed to radon progeny at cumulative doses of 4000, 500 or 100 work-level-months (WLM), with or without concurrent exposure to cigarette smoke by inhalation for one year. Rats exposed to 4000 WLM radon progeny, without exposure to smoke, developed lung carcinomas (17/50). Thirty four carcinomas were seen in 50 rats exposed to radon and cigarette smoke. The 500 WLM radon progeny group exposed to radon only had 2/28 lung carcinomas as compared with 8/30 rats exposed to radon and cigarette smoke. No tumours were observed in rats treated with 100 WLM radon and one carcinoma was seen among 30 rats exposed to 100 WLM radon and cigarette smoke. Seventy five percent of the lung tumours were squamous-cell carcinomas, 20% were adenocarcinomas, and the remainder were undifferentiated carcinomas ([Chameaud et al., 1982](#)).



**Table 3.1 Carcinogenicity in response to mainstream tobacco smoke in animals**

Species, strain (sex) Reference	Animals/group at start Dosing regimen Duration	Lung burden	Results Target organ Incidence and/or multiplicity of tumours (%)	Significance	Comments
Mice, C57BL (M, F) <a href="#">Harris &amp; Negroni (1967)</a>	100 animals/sex/group Nose-only, mixture of fresh non-filter cigarette smoke/ air (1/39, v/v), nicotine, 0.1 mg/mL; CO, 0.064% (v/v), 12 min/every other d; lifetime	Nicotine, 14–17 µg	Alveolar adenocarcinomas: M–4/100 (alveolar adenocarcinoma) Controls–0/100 F–4/100 (alveolar adenocarcinoma) Controls–0/100	$P = 0.06$ $P = 0.06$	
Mice, C57BL and BLH (sex, NR) <a href="#">Otto &amp; Elmenhorst (1967)</a>	126 animals/group Whole-body, gas phase of 12 cigarettes puffed 2 sec/ min, concentration (NR), 90 min/d; lifetime (~27 mo)	NR	Lung (adenomas): C57BL–7/126 (5.5%) Controls–3/90 (3%) BLH–40/126 (32%) Controls–19/60 (32%)	NS NS	
Mice, (C57BL/Cum × C3H/ Anf Cum) <sub>F<sub>1</sub></sub> (F) <a href="#">Henry &amp; Kouri (1986)</a>	2053, 1 014 sham Nose-only, 10% smoke from US reference cigarettes, concentration (NR), smoke 20 sec/min, 6–8 min/d, 5 d/wk for 110 wk; 116 wk	Particulate deposition, 125–200 µg	Alveolar adenocarcinomas: 19/978 (2%) Sham-exposed controls–7/651 (1%)	$P = 0.10$	Shorter latency of tumour occurrence in smoke-exposed group suggested
Mice, C57BL (M, F) <a href="#">Harris et al. (1974)</a>	100 animals/sex/group Nose-only, mixture of fresh flue-cured or air-cured cigarette smoke/air (1/39, v/v), concentration (NR), 12 min/d on alternate d; lifetime	NR	M: 9/162 <sup>a</sup> (5%, flue-cured), 7/189 <sup>a</sup> (4%, air-cured) Controls–3/160 <sup>a</sup> (2%) F: 7/164 <sup>a</sup> (4%, flue-cured), 0/173 (air-cured) Controls–1/159 <sup>a</sup> (1%)	$P = 0.07$ , flue-cured $P > 0.05$ , air-cured $P = 0.04$ , flue-cured	
	Nose-only, gas phase of flue-cured cigarette smoke, concentration (NR), 12 min/d on alternate d; lifetime	NR	M: 3/8 <sup>a</sup> (37%) Controls–3/160 <sup>a</sup> (2%) F: 2/88 <sup>a</sup> (2%) Controls–1/159 <sup>a</sup> (1%)	$P > 0.05$ $P > 0.05$	

Table 3.1 (continued)

Species, strain (sex) Reference	Animals/group at start Dosing regimen Duration	Lung burden	Results Target organ Incidence and/or multiplicity of tumours (%)	Significance	Comments
Mice, Snell (M, F) <a href="#">Leuchtenberger &amp; Leuchtenberger (1970)</a>	160 M, 118 F Whole-body, whole fresh cigarette smoke, concentration (NR), 2 puffs, 1 × /d, lifetime (26 mo)	Nicotine, 5 µg	M: Lung A-7/107 (6.5%) Controls-8/106 (7.5%)	NS	
			Lung AdC-11/107 (10%) Controls-5/106 (4.7%)	P = 0.15	
			F: Lung A-2/65 (3%) Controls-1/78 (1.2%)	P = 0.475	
			Lung AdC-5/65 (7.7%) Controls-3/78 (3.8%)	P = 0.035	
			M: Lung A-1/44 (2%) Controls-8/106 (7%)	NS	
	100 M, 89 F Whole-body, gas phase of fresh cigarette smoke, concentration (NR), 2 puffs, 1 × /d, lifetime (26 mo)	NR	Lung AdC-10/44 (23%) Controls-5/106 (5%)	P = 0.005	
			F: Lung A-3/44 (7%) Controls-1/78 (1%)	P = 0.15	
			Lung AdC-5/44 (11%) Controls-3/78 (4%)	P = 0.15	
			Lung A: 93/330 (28%) Sham-exposed controls-22/326 (7%)	P < 0.001	
			Bronchiolar papillomas: 15/330 (4%) Controls-0/326	P < 0.001	
Mice, B6C3F1 (F) <a href="#">Hutt et al. (2005)</a>	330, 326 controls Whole-body, smoke from Kentucky 2R1 unfiltered reference cigarettes, 250 mg total particulate matter/m <sup>3</sup> , 6 h/d, 5 d/wk for 30 mo; 30 mo or lifetime	NR	Lung AdC: 67/330 (20%) Controls-9/326	P < 0.001	
			All lung tumours: 148/330 (45%) Controls-31/326	P < 0.001 <sup>b</sup>	
			Nasal cavity tumours: 20/330 (6%) Controls-0/326	P = 0.002, one-tailed Fisher	
			Squamous-cell carcinomas: 9/330 (3%) Controls-0/326		

**Table 3.1 (continued)**

Species, strain (sex) Reference	Animals/group at start Dosing regimen Duration	Lung burden	Results Target organ Incidence and/or multiplicity of tumours (%)	Significance	Comments
Mice, Swiss (M, F) <a href="#">Balansky <i>et al.</i> (2007)</a>	38, 36 controls (neonatal mice, 21 h of age) Whole-body, cigarette smoke/air, 818 mg total particulate matter/m <sup>3</sup> , 65 min/d for 120 d	NR	Lung A: 15/38 (19%) Sham-exposed controls–0/36 Lung AdC: 7/38 (18%) Controls–0/38 Kidney A: 6/16 (16%) (F only) Controls–0/21 Liver carcinomas: 2/16 (5%) (F only) Controls–0/21	$P < 0.001$  $P < 0.01$  $P < 0.01$	
Rats, Wistar (F) <a href="#">Davis <i>et al.</i> (1975)</a>	408, 102 untreated, 102 sham Nose-only, mixture of cigarette smoke/air (1/5), concentration (NR), 15 sec/min, 2 × 11 min/d, 5 d/wk, lifetime	NR	4/408 (1%) (1 lung C and 3 lung neoplasms of uncertain malignancy) Controls–0/102 Sham treated controls–0/102	NS	
Rats, F344 (F) <a href="#">Dalbey <i>et al.</i> (1980)</a>	80, 63 untreated, 30 sham Nose-only, mixture of non-filter cigarette smoke/ air (1/10), 18.4 mg smoke particulate and 0.89 mg nicotine/cigarette, 1 cigarette/h, 7 cigarettes/d, 5 d/wk for 128 wk; 160 wk	Particulate deposition, 1.75 mg/d	10/80 (12%) (1 nasal AdC, 1 nasal C, 5 pulmonary A, 1 pulmonary C, 2 alveoleogenic C) Controls–3/93 (3%) Subcutaneous sarcomas at forelimb ulceration sites: 21/80 (26%) Controls–0/93	$P < 0.05$  $P < 0.05$	
Rats, CDF (F344)/CrIBR (M, F) <a href="#">Finch <i>et al.</i> (1995)</a>	2165 animals Whole-body, cigarette smoke/air, 100 mg (LCS) or 250 mg (HCS) total particulate matter/m <sup>3</sup> , 6 h/d, 5 d/ wk for 30 mo; lifetime	NR	Lung tumours: M: LCS 3/173 (2%) HCS 7/78 (9%) Filtered air 3/119 (2%) F: LCS–4/145 (3%) HCS–6/83 (7%) Filtered air–0/113	$P < 0.05$  $P < 0.05$	

Table 3.1 (continued)

Species, strain (sex) Reference	Animals/group at start Dosing regimen Duration	Lung burden	Results Target organ Incidence and/or multiplicity of tumours (%)	Significance	Comments
Rats, F344 (M, F) <a href="#">Mauderly et al. (2004)</a>	M: 178 LCS, 82 HCS F: 175 LCS, 81 HCS Whole-body, smoke from Kentucky 1R3 unfiltered reference cigarettes, 100 mg (LCS) or 250 mg (HCS) total particulate matter/m <sup>3</sup> , 6 h/d, 5 d/wk for 30 mo; lifetime	NR	<p>M: Lung A– LCS 4/178 (2%) HCS 2/82 (2%) Sham-exposed controls 1/118 (1%)</p> <p>Lung AdC– LCS 1/178 (1%) HCS 5/82 (6%) Controls 3/118 (3%)</p> <p>All lung tumours– LCS 4/178 (2%) HCS 7/82 (8%) Controls 4/118</p> <p>Nasal cavity (all tumour types)– LCS 1/178 (1%) HCS 5/82 (6%) Controls 1/118 (1%)</p> <p>F: Lung A– LCS 7/175 (6%) HCS 7/81 (9%) Sham-exposed controls 0/119</p> <p>AdC– LCS 4/175 (2%) HCS 4/81 (5%) Controls 0/119</p> <p>All lung tumours– LCS 10/175 (6%) HCS 11/81 (13%) Controls 0/119</p> <p>Nasal cavity (all tumour types)– LCS 0/175 HCS 3/81 Controls 0/119</p>	<p>NS</p> <p>NS</p> <p>NS; trend, <math>P = 0.055</math></p> <p><math>P = 0.032</math> (HCS); trend, <math>P = 0.010</math></p> <p>NS (LCS); <math>P &lt; 0.001</math> (HCS)</p> <p>NS</p> <p><math>P = 0.023</math> (LCS); <math>P = 0.001</math> (HCS)</p> <p><math>P = 0.020</math> (HCS); trend, <math>P = 0.003</math></p>	

**Table 3.1 (continued)**

Species, strain (sex) Reference	Animals/group at start Dosing regimen Duration	Lung burden	Results Target organ Incidence and/or multiplicity of tumours (%)	Significance	Comments
Hamsters, Syrian golden (M, F) <a href="#">Dontenwill et al. (1972)</a>	80 animals/sex/group Whole-body, mixture of German reference cigarette smoke/air (1/15), concentration (NR), smoke of 30 cigarettes for 7–10 min; 1, 2 or 3 × /d, 5 d/wk, lifetime	NR	Laryngeal carcinomas: 1/160 (1%), 17/160 (11%) and 11/160 (7%) Controls–0/80		
	Whole-body, mixture of dark air-cured cigarette smoke/air (1/15), concentration (NR), Smoke of 30 cigarettes for 7–10 min; twice/d, 5 d/wk, lifetime	NR	Laryngeal carcinomas: 2/160 (1%) Controls–0/80		
Hamsters, Syrian golden (M, F) <a href="#">Dontenwill et al. (1972)</a>	80 animals/group Whole-body, mixture of German reference cigarette smoke/air (1/15), 1.5 mg nicotine, 0.173 mg phenol and 12.7 mL CO/cigarette, smoke of 30 cigarettes for 7–10 min; 1, 2 or 3 × /d, 5 d/wk, lifetime	NR	M: Laryngeal C–0, 4, 6 and 11%, Controls–0% F: Laryngeal C–0, 1, 2 and 7% Controls–0%		
	102 animals/group Whole-body, mixture of US reference cigarette smoke/ air (1/5), concentration (NR), duration (NR)		Inbred BIO 15.16: Laryngeal tumours–9/84 (10%) Nasopharyngeal tumours–2/84 (2%) Sham-exposed controls 0/42 Controls 0/40 Inbred BIO 87.20: Laryngeal tumours–2/87 (2%) Sham-exposed controls 0/44 Controls 0/48		
Rats, Inbred BIO 15.16 (M) <a href="#">Bernfield et al. (1979)</a>	Number at start (NR) Whole-body, 11 or 22% smoke from commercial British filter cigarettes, concentration (NR), 2 × 12 min/d, 7 d/wk for 35–42 wk; up to 74–80 wk	NR	Laryngeal carcinomas: 11% smoke–3/44 (7%) 22% smoke–27/57 (47%) Sham-exposed controls 0/36; Controls 0/50		

<sup>a</sup> Most of these lung tumours are adenomas<sup>b</sup> Nasal cavity tumours included 14 squamous cell carcinomas (5 in situ), 5 hemangiomas, and 1 respiratory papilloma  
A, adenoma; AdC, adenocarcinoma; C, carcinoma; CO, carbon monoxide; d, day or days; F, female; h, hour or hours; HCS, high cigarette smoke; LCS, low cigarette smoke; M, male;  
min, minute or minutes; mo, month or months; NR, not reported; NS, not significant; sec, second or seconds; wk, week or weeks; yr, year or years



**Table 3.2 Carcinogenicity in response to exposure to mainstream tobacco smoke in conjunction with exposure to known carcinogens or other agents in animals**

Species, strain (sex) Reference	Animals/group at start Dosing regimen Duration	Results Target organ Incidence and/or multiplicity of tumours (%)	Significance
Rats, Wistar (F) <a href="#">Davis et al. (1975)</a>	84 or 408 animals/group A single intratracheal instillation of benzo[a]pyrene (2 mg) + infusine + carbon black followed by British reference cigarette smoke/air (1/5); 1 cigarette, twice/d, 5 d/wk, lifetime	3/84 (4%, lung C), 1/84 (1%, lung C; benzo[a]pyrene alone), 4/408 (1%, 3 A + 1 malignant neoplasm; cigarette smoke only), 0/204 (controls + sham-exposed controls)	NS
Rats, Wistar (M) <a href="#">Gupta et al. (1990)</a>	35 animals/group Cigarette smoke; 5 cigarettes/8.2 L air; 1 h/d during 2nd–24th wk or 10th–24th wk of the study Benzo[a]pyrene (20 mg) + Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> ; intratracheally (3 weekly doses) during 6th–8th wk of the study; 24 wk	Conventional diet: 2nd–24th wk, 2.14 lung C/animal; 10th–24th wk, 1.33 lung C/animal; benzo[a]pyrene control, 1.22 lung C/animal. Vitamin A-deficient diet: 2nd–24th wk, 2.86 lung C/animal; 10th–24th wk, 1.67 lung C/animal; benzo[a]pyrene control, 1.83 lung C/animal	
Rats, Sprague-Dawley, sex NR <a href="#">Chameaud et al. (1982)</a>	28–50 animals/group French reference cigarette smoke (9 cigarettes/500 L air); 10–15 min session, 4 d/wk for 1 yr Radon progeny (4 000, 500 or 100 WLM) Lifetime	4000 WLM: 34/50 (68%, lung C); 17/50 (34%, lung C; radon progeny alone) 500 WLM: 8/30 (27%, lung C); 2/28 (7%, lung C; radon progeny alone) 100 WLM: 1/30 (3%, lung C); 0/50 (radon progeny alone)	P = 0.0015
CDF (F344)/CrIBR (M, F) <a href="#">Finch et al. (1995)</a>	Number at start (NR) Cigarette smoke/air, 100 mg (LCS) or 250 mg (HCS) total particulate matter/m <sup>3</sup> ; 6 h/d, 5 d/wk for 126 wk <sup>239</sup> PuO <sub>2</sub> aerosol, 1 wk (6th wk of the study); > 52 wk	49–61% (lung tumours, LCS + <sup>239</sup> PuO <sub>2</sub> ) 72–74% (HCS + <sup>239</sup> PuO <sub>2</sub> ) 20–33% ( <sup>239</sup> PuO <sub>2</sub> ) 2–3% (LCS) 7–8% (HCS)	
Syrian golden (M, F) <a href="#">Dontenwill et al. (1973)</a>	80 animals/sex/group German reference cigarette smoke/air (1/15); Smoke of 30 cigarettes for 7–10 min; twice/d, 5 d/wk, lifetime DMBA (0.5 mg); intratracheally 10 d before the beginning of smoke exposure	32/160 (20%, laryngeal C), 17/160 (11%, laryngeal C; smoke only), 0/160 (DMBA alone)	

**Table 3.2 (continued)**

Species, strain (sex) Reference	Animals/group at start Dosing regimen Duration	Results Target organ Incidence and/or multiplicity of tumours (%)	Significance
Syrian golden, (sex NR) <a href="#">Hoffmann <i>et al.</i> (1979)</a>	20 or 40 animals/group Cigarette smoke/air (1/7); Cigarette smoke 2 × 10 min/d, 5 d/wk, 48 wk DMBA (0.24 mg); intralaryngeally	3/40 (7%, laryngeal C), 0/20 (smoke only), 0/20 (DMBA alone)	
Syrian golden (M) <a href="#">Takahashi <i>et al.</i> (1992)</a>	10 or 30 animals/group Cigarette smoke/air (1/7); Smoke of 30 cigarettes for 9 min; twice/d, 5 d/wk, 12 wk NDEA (100 mg/kg bw); subcutaneously	Non-filter cigarettes (2.10 ± 1.74 P+H/animal) and filter cigarettes (1.93 ± 1.55 P + H/animal) versus sham-exposed (0.97 ± 1.03 P + H/animal)	$P < 0.01$ $P < 0.01$
Syrian golden (M) <a href="#">Harada <i>et al.</i> (1985)</a>	30 animals/group Non-filter cigarette smoke/air (1/7); Smoke of 30 cigarettes for 6 min: twice/d, 5 d/wk, 58 wk NDEA (10 mg/hamster); subcutaneously (12 weekly doses)	Nasal cavity tumours 14/30 (47%, smoke + NDEA), 5/30 (17%, NDEA alone)	$P < 0.05$

A, adenoma; bw, body weight; C, carcinoma; d, day or days; DMBA, 7,12-dimethylbenz[*a*]anthracene; F, female; h, hour or hours; HCS, high cigarette smoke; LCS, low cigarette smoke; M, male; min, minute or minutes; mo, month or months; NDEA, *N*-nitrosodiethylamine; NR, not reported; NS, not significant; P + H, epithelial hyperplasias and papillomas; sec, second or seconds; wk, week or weeks; WLM, work-level-months; yr, year or years

### (c) *Plutonium oxide*

CDF®/CrlBR rats were exposed to either filtered air or mainstream cigarette smoke at concentrations of either 100 or 250 mg total particulate matter/m<sup>3</sup> (LCS and HCS groups, respectively). At 12 weeks, rats were removed from smoke chambers and exposed nose-only to plutonium oxide (<sup>239</sup>PuO<sub>2</sub>) then returned to the smoke chambers one week later for 30 months of continuous exposure to either filtered air or cigarette smoke. The incidence and multiplicity of lung tumours (adenocarcinomas, squamous-cell carcinomas, adenosquamous carcinomas) in animals exposed to both concentrations of cigarette smoke and <sup>239</sup>PuO<sub>2</sub> were higher than those in animals exposed to <sup>239</sup>PuO<sub>2</sub>, LCS or HCS alone (Finch *et al.*, 1995).

### 3.2.2 Hamster

#### (a) 7,12-Dimethylbenz[*a*]anthracene

Groups of 160 Syrian golden hamsters received 7,12-dimethylbenz[*a*]anthracene (DMBA) intratracheally, followed by cigarette smoke for life, or treated with cigarette smoke or DMBA only. A total of 32 squamous-cell carcinomas of the larynx were observed in animals treated with both DMBA and cigarette smoke, in comparison with 17 in hamsters exposed to cigarette smoke only and none in hamsters treated with DMBA alone (Dontenwill *et al.*, 1973). Similar results were reported from other experiments in which Syrian golden hamsters were exposed to DMBA and cigarette smoke (Hoffmann *et al.*, 1979).

#### (b) *N*-Nitrosodiethylamine

Groups of hamsters received a single subcutaneous injection of *N*-nitrosodiethylamine (NDEA) and then were exposed to smoke from unfiltered cigarettes, filtered cigarettes and sham smoke. Controls were exposed to either unfiltered cigarette smoke, filtered cigarette smoke or sham smoke. In the NDEA-smoke-treated

groups, epithelial hyperplasias and/or papillomas of the larynx were induced at higher frequency than in controls (Takahashi *et al.*, 1992). Hamsters exposed to cigarette smoke in air also received 12 weekly subcutaneous injections of NDEA (total dose, 10 mg/hamster). Treatment with NDEA only resulted in both benign and malignant tumours of the respiratory tract, and co-exposure to cigarette smoke potentiated the development of tumours in the nasal cavity (Harada *et al.*, 1985).

## 3.3 Smoke condensates

Study design and results of the studies on administration of tobacco smoke condensates are summarized in Table 3.3.

### 3.3.1 Skin application

#### (a) Mouse

Cigarette-smoke condensate produces both benign and malignant tumours on mouse skin. The carcinogenic potency of the cigarette-smoke condensate depends upon tobacco variety, composition of cigarette paper and the presence of additives (Wynder *et al.*, 1957; Gargus *et al.*, 1976; Gori, 1976).

#### (b) Rabbit

Cigarette-smoke condensate induced skin papillomas and carcinomas when applied to the ears of rabbits for lifetime (Graham *et al.*, 1957).

### 3.3.2 Intrapulmonary administration

Injection of 24 mg cigarette-smoke condensate into the lungs of female Osborne Mendel rats led to the development of squamous cell carcinomas (Stanton *et al.*, 1972). These observations were confirmed by Dagle *et al.* (1978) who observed a dose-dependent incidence of lung carcinomas when cigarette-smoke condensate prepared from two types of cigarettes were given.

**Table 3.3 Carcinogenicity in response to exposure to cigarette-smoke condensate in animals**

Species, strain (sex) Reference	Animals/group at start Dosing regimen Duration	Results Target organ Incidence and/or multiplicity of tumours (%)	Significance
Mice CAF1 (M, F) <a href="#">Wynder et al. (1953)</a>	112, 44 controls Skin painting (dorsal) of CSC, CSC/acetone solution (40 mg CSC/ application), 3 × /wk, lifetime	36/81 (44%, skin epidermoid C), 0/30 (acetone controls)	
Mice ICR Swiss (F) <a href="#">Gargus et al. (1976)</a>	5200 Skin painting (dorsal) of CSC, CSC/acetone solution (150 mg or 300 mg CSC/wk), 6 × /wk, 78 wk	482/5200 (9%, skin C), 3/800 (0.4%, acetone controls) <sup>a</sup>	
Mice ICR Swiss (F) <a href="#">Gori (1976)</a>	4900 Skin painting (dorsal) of CSC, CSC/acetone solution (25 mg or 50 mg CSC/application), 6 × /wk, 78 wk	1157/4900 (24%, skin C), 0/800 (acetone controls)	
Mice, ICR/Ha Swiss (F) <a href="#">Hoffmann &amp; Wynder (1971)</a>	30 animals/group Skin painting (dorsal) with CSC active fraction with or without subsequent painting of the skin with croton oil, CSC active fraction/acetone (2.5 mg of 0.6% CSC/ application), 10 times on alternate d Croton oil (2.5%), 3 × /wk, up to 12 mo, 10 d after last CSC active fraction application; 15 mo	After 12 and 15 mo: 4/30 (13%, skin C), 0/65 (croton oil controls)	
Mice, Swiss (F) <a href="#">Wynder &amp; Hoffmann (1961)</a>	30–50 animals/group Skin painting (dorsal) of CSC with or without initiation by DMBA application; DMBA (75 µg); CSC/acetone (75 mg CSC/application, start: 1 wk after DMBA application), 2–3 × /wk, 12 mo; 15 mo	DMBA: 2/30 (7%, skin C) 2 × CSC: 1/40 (3%, skin C) DMBA + 2 × CSC: 8/30 (27%, skin C) 3 × CSC: 11/50 (22%, skin C) DMBA + 3 × CSC: 11/30 (37%, skin C)	
Mice, SENCAR (F) <a href="#">Meckley et al. (2004a)</a>	40 animals/group Skin painting (dorsal) of CSC from Kentucky IR4F reference cigarettes, with or without initiation by DMBA application; DMBA (75 µg) or acetone, 1x. Then starting 1 wk after DMBA or acetone: CSC in acetone, 0, 10, 20 or 40 mg/application, 3 × /wk, 29 wk; 31 wk	Mean mice with tumours/mice per group at 31 wk: No DMBA: 0/40 acetone-acetone, 9/40 (22%) acetone-CSC 40 mg/treatment DMBA/CSC: 0/40, 3/40 (1.0), 16/40 (75 tumours/16 mice = 4.7), 32/40 (200 tumours/32 mice = 6.3)	
Mice, SENCAR (F) <a href="#">Meckley et al. (2004b)</a>	40 animals/group Skin painting (dorsal) of CSC from Kentucky IR4F reference cigarettes or ECLIPSE (non-burned) cigarettes, with or without initiation by DMBA application; DMBA (75 µg) or acetone, 1 × . Then starting 1 wk after DMBA or acetone: CSC in acetone, 0, 10, 20 or 40 mg/application, 3 × /wk, 29 wk; 31 wk	No DMBA: acetone/acetone 0/40 (0); acetone/1R4F CSC 40 mg, 9/40 (1.8); acetone/ECLIPSE CSC 40 mg, 0/40 (0) DMBA/CSC: acetone, 0/40 (0); 1R4F CSC 10 mg, 6/40 (1.8); 1R4F CSC 12 mg, 28/40 (6.6); 1R4F CSC 40 mg, 36/40 (6.8); ECLIPSE CSC, 0/40 (0); ECLIPSE CSC 10 mg, 1/40 (1); ECLIPSE CSC 20 mg, 2/40 (5.5); ECLIPSE CSC 40 mg, 12/40 (2.6)	

Table 3.3 (continued)

Species, strain (sex) Reference	Animals/group at start Dosing regimen Duration	Results Target organ Incidence and/or multiplicity of tumours (%)	Significance
Mice, SENCAR (F) <a href="#">Hayes et al. (2007)</a>	40 or 50 animals/group Skin painting (dorsal) of CSC from heat-exchanged flue cured tobacco (HE; low TSNA) or direct-fire (DF) cured tobacco, with or without initiation by DMBA application; DMBA (75 µg) or acetone, 1 × . Then starting 1 wk after DMBA or acetone: CSC/acetone, 0, 9, 18, or 36 mg/ application, 3 × /wk, 29 wk; 31 wk	No DMBA: acetone/acetone 0/40; acetone/DF CSC 36 mg, 5/50 (1.4); acetone/HE CSC 36 mg, 8/50 (1.3) DMBA/CSC: DF CSC, 0/40, DF CSC 9 mg, 15/40 (5.5); DF CSC 18 mg, 30/40 (10.0); DF CSC 36 mg, 43/50 (8.2); HE CSC, 0/40, HE CSC 9 mg, 17/40 (4.8); HE CSC 18 mg, 32/40 (7.3); HE CSC 36 mg, 42/50 (8.5)	$P < 0.05$ $P < 0.05$ $P < 0.05$
Mice, Swiss albino (M) <a href="#">Pakhale et al. (1988)</a>	20 animals/group Oral gavage of Indian bidi smoke condensate; 1 mg bidi smoke condensate/0.1 mg DMSO, 5 d/wk, 55 wk; 90 wk	4/15 (27%, hepatic haemangiomas); 1/15 (7%, stomach papilloma); 1/15 (7%, stomach carcinoma); 1/15 (7%, oesophageal carcinoma); 0/15 (untreated or DMSO-treated controls)	
Rats, Osborne Mendel (F) <a href="#">Stanton et al. (1972)</a>	Number/group at start (NR) Intrapulmonary administration of CSC pellet; CSC/ beeswax:tricaprylin (24 mg CSC/injection), up to 107 wk after implantation	14/40 <sup>c</sup> (35%, lung squamous-cell C), 0/63 <sup>c</sup> (beeswax:tricaprylin controls)	
Rats, OM/NCR (F) <a href="#">Dagle et al. (1978)</a>	120 <sup>d</sup> Intrapulmonary administration of CSC pellet; CSC/ beeswax:tricaprylin (5, 10, 20 or 67 mg CSC/injection), 120 wk after implantation	4, 10, 20 and 42% pulmonary C prevalence; 0% C prevalence for 3 control groups of about 190 rats each	
Rabbits, Albino New Zealand (M, F) <a href="#">Graham et al. (1957)</a>	38, 7 controls Skin painting of CSC (both ears); CSC/acetone solution (100 mg CSC/ application/ear), 5 × /wk, lifetime (4–6 yr)	4/38 (11%, 2 skin C + 1 skin liposarcoma + 1 skin fibrosarcoma), 0/7 (acetone controls)	

<sup>a</sup> Skin papillomas<sup>b</sup> Mostly adenomas<sup>c</sup> Incidence in animals that died 43–107 weeks after injection<sup>d</sup> 4 × 10 rats/group terminated before 120 weeks<sup>e</sup> Total visually identified and histologically confirmed skin tumours included mostly squamous papillomas and carcinomas [Tumour incidences and multiplicities estimated from graphs]C, carcinoma; CSC, cigarette-smoke condensate; d, day or days; DMBA, 7,12-dimethylbenz[*a*]anthracene; DMSO, dimethyl sulfoxide; F, female; M, male; NR, not reported; TSNA, tobacco-specific *N*-nitrosamines; wk, week or weeks



### 3.3.3 Initiation-promotion skin painting studies

Cigarette-smoke condensate and its fractions can act as skin co-carcinogens in Swiss and SENCAR mice when tested in conjunction with croton oil ([Hoffmann & Wynder, 1971](#)) or DMBA ([Wynder & Hoffmann, 1961](#); [Meckley et al., 2004a, b](#); [Hayes et al., 2007](#)).

### 3.3.4 Bidi smoke

Swiss albino mice administered 1 mg bidi smoke condensate in dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO) by oral gavage developed haemangiomas (4/15), stomach carcinoma (1/15), and esophageal carcinoma (1/15), whereas no tumours were observed in controls ([Pakhale et al., 1988](#)).

## 3.4 Synthesis

Mainstream tobacco smoke induced lung tumours in mice, lung and nasal cavity tumours in rats and laryngeal carcinomas in hamsters.

Co-administration of tobacco smoke with benzo[*a*]pyrene, radon progeny and plutonium resulted in higher lung tumour responses in rats than administration of either agent alone. Hamsters exposed to cigarette smoke and either DMBA or NDEA had higher lung tumour responses compared to cigarette smoke, DMBA or NDEA alone.

Topical application of cigarette-smoke condensate led to the development of skin tumours in mice and rabbits; intrapulmonary administration of cigarette-smoke condensate induced squamous cell carcinomas in rat lung.

## 4. Other Relevant Data

### 4.1 Overview of the mechanistic evidence for the carcinogenicity of tobacco

#### 4.1.1 Conceptual model of the carcinogenesis of tobacco and tobacco smoke

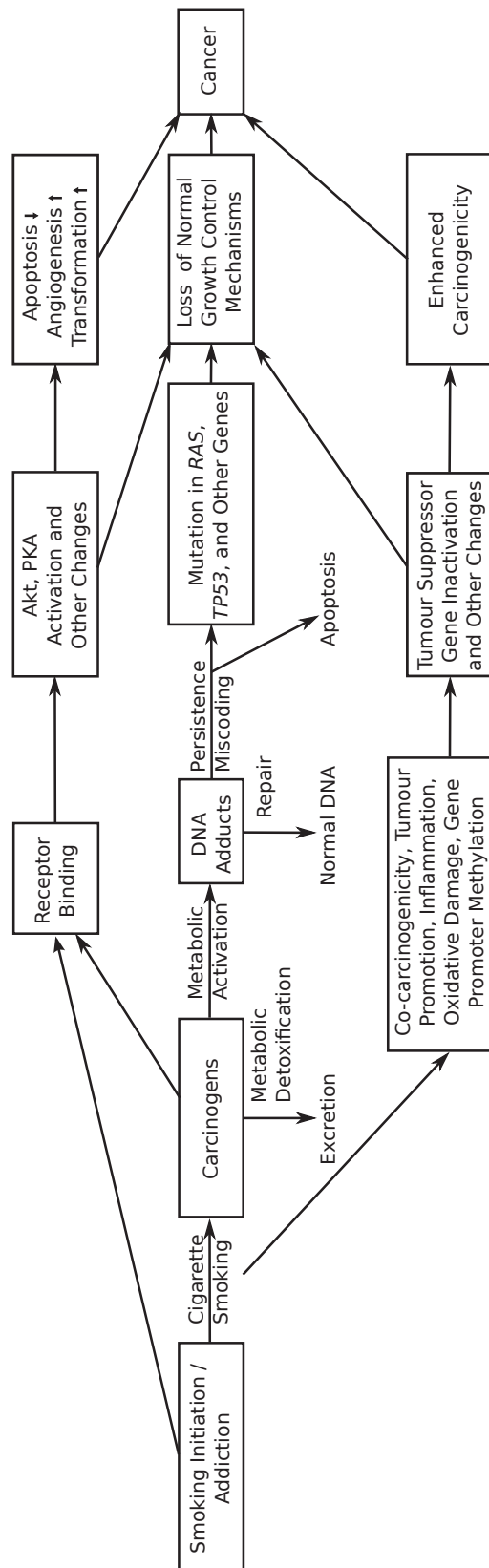
A conceptual model for understanding mechanisms by which tobacco smoke causes cancer is shown in Fig. 4.1 ([Hecht, 1999, 2003](#)). This model also applies to smokeless tobacco and other forms of smoked tobacco and, in theory, to second-hand tobacco smoke since it contains all of the same carcinogens and toxicants as mainstream cigarette smoke, although at lower doses.

The major accepted mechanistic pathway is summarized in the central track of Fig. 4.1. Smokers inhale carcinogens which, either directly or after metabolism, covalently bind to DNA, forming DNA adducts. DNA adducts are central to chemical carcinogenesis because they can cause miscoding and permanent mutations. If these mutations occur in critical regions of oncogenes and tumour suppressor genes, which are essential in growth control, the result can be loss of normal cellular proliferation mechanisms, genomic instability, and cancer. A study that sequenced 623 cancer-related genes in 188 human lung adenocarcinomas validated this premise by finding multiple somatic mutations in critical growth control genes, consistent with the chronic bombardment of cellular DNA by tobacco smoke carcinogens and their metabolically activated forms ([Ding et al., 2008](#)).

Each step of this conceptual model is considered in detail below.

Most people begin smoking cigarettes when they are teenagers, and become addicted to nicotine. Nicotine is not generally considered to be a carcinogen ([Schuller, 2009](#)), but it is accompanied in each puff of each cigarette by a complex

**Fig. 4.1 Conceptual model for understanding mechanisms of tobacco carcinogenesis**



There may be overlap between these three tracks: e.g. mutation in *TP53* leading to tumour suppressor gene inactivation.

mixture of carcinogens and toxicants. There are over 60 carcinogens in cigarette smoke that have been evaluated in the previous *IARC Monograph* as having *sufficient evidence* for carcinogenicity in laboratory animals ([IARC, 2004a](#)), sixteen of which are considered to be *carcinogenic to humans* (Group 1). There are also many other carcinogens and potential carcinogens in cigarette smoke that have not been evaluated ([Rodgman & Perfetti, 2006](#); see Section 1.1). Structures of tobacco smoke constituents and biomarkers discussed here are presented in Fig. 4.2.

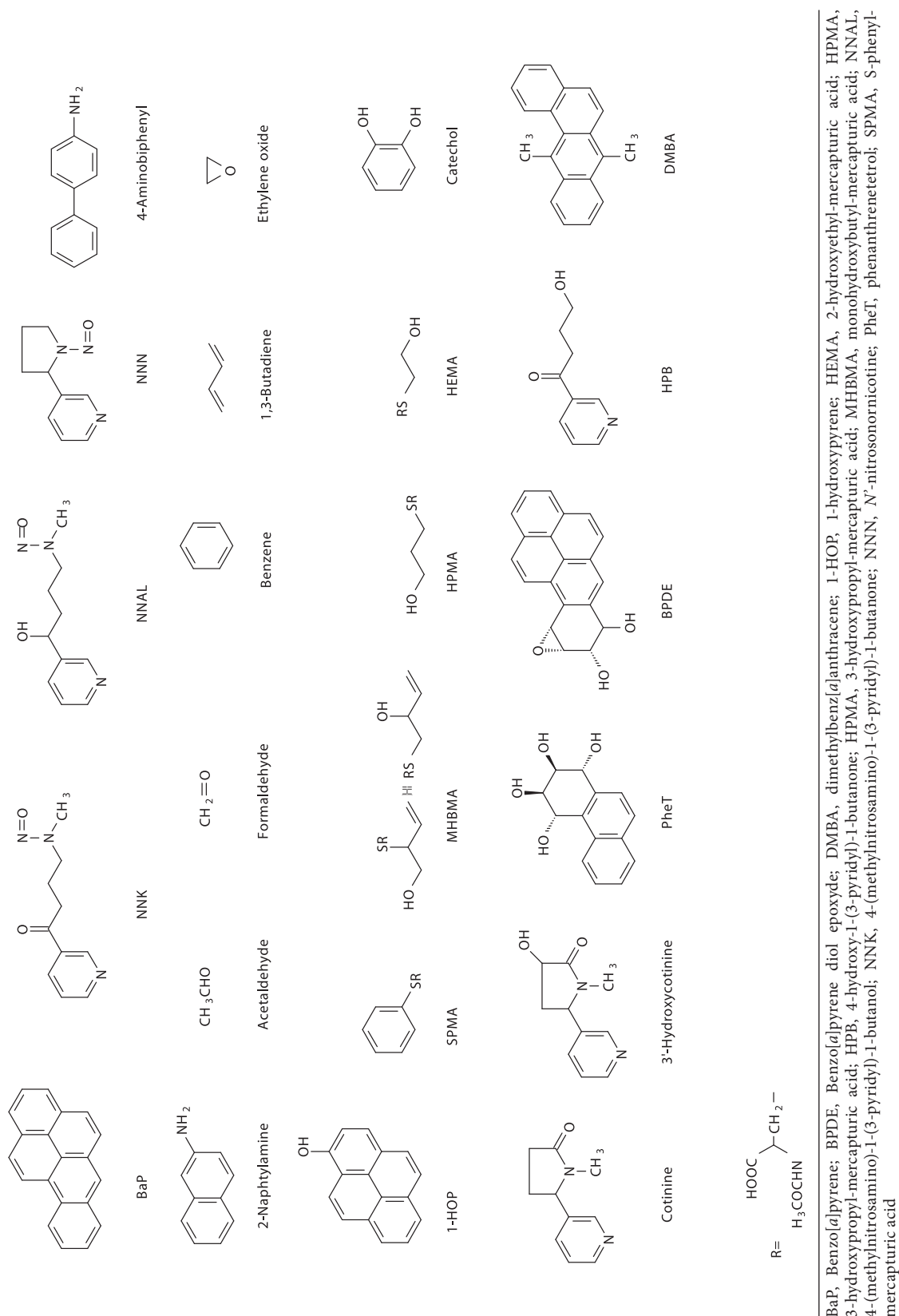
Numerous studies demonstrate the uptake of tobacco smoke carcinogens and toxicants by smokers, and showed higher levels of their metabolites in urine and blood of smokers than non-smokers (Sections 4.1.1 and 4.1.2). There are substantial differences in carcinogen exposure among people because of the number and types of cigarettes they smoke and the ways in which they smoke them. These differences can be monitored in part by biomarkers of exposure such as urinary metabolites or haemoglobin adducts (Section 4.1.2). Haemoglobin adducts of multiple aromatic amines and volatile carcinogens have been demonstrably related to tobacco ([Hatsukami et al., 2006a](#)). There may also be differences in carcinogen exposure due to genetic variations (Section 4.2).

The body's response to cigarette smoke constituents is similar to its response to pharmaceutical agents and other foreign compounds. Drug metabolizing enzymes, most frequently CYPs, convert these compounds to more water soluble forms, facilitating excretion. During this natural protective attempt, some reactive intermediates are formed. These intermediates are frequently electrophilic (electron seeking, or bearing a partial or full positive charge). Electrophilic intermediates may react with water, generally resulting in detoxification, or may covalently bind to nucleophilic (electron rich) sites in DNA, forming DNA adducts ([Guengerich, 2001](#); [Jalas et al., 2005](#)), which are

critical in the carcinogenic process (see Section 4.1.3c). CYP1A1 and CYP1B1, repeatedly shown to be inducible by cigarette smoke via interactions of smoke compounds with the aryl hydrocarbon receptor (AhR), are particularly important in the metabolic activation of PAHs, while CYP2A13 is critical for the metabolism of NNK ([Nebert et al., 2004](#); [Jalas et al., 2005](#)). The inducibility of certain CYPs may be a critical aspect of cancer susceptibility in smokers ([Nebert et al., 2004](#)). CYP1A2, CYP2A6, CYP2E1 and CYP3A4 are also important in the metabolism of cigarette smoke carcinogens to DNA binding intermediates ([Jalas et al., 2005](#)), and aldo-keto reductase enzymes, also induced by tobacco smoke ([Quinn et al., 2008](#)), are involved in the metabolism of NNK, BaP and other tobacco smoke carcinogens. Competing with this process of “metabolic activation” resulting in DNA binding is the intended metabolic detoxification, which leads to harmless excretion of carcinogen metabolites, and is also catalysed by CYPs and a variety of other enzymes including GSTs, uridine diphosphate-glucuronosyl transferases (UGTs), and arylsulfatases. The relative amounts of carcinogen metabolic activation and detoxification differ among individuals. It is widely hypothesized that this balance will affect cancer risk with those having higher activation and lower detoxification capacity being the most susceptible. This premise is supported in part by molecular epidemiologic studies of polymorphisms, or variants in more than 1% of the population, in certain genes coding for these enzymes ([Vineis et al., 2003](#); [Carlsten et al., 2008](#)).

DNA adducts are thought to be a critical lesion in carcinogenesis. Many investigations demonstrate the presence of DNA adducts in human tissues, and some of these are summarized in Section 4.1.2c. There is massive evidence, particularly from studies which use relatively non-specific DNA adduct measurement methods, that DNA adduct levels in the lung and other tissues of smokers are higher than in non-smokers, and some epidemiologic data link

Fig. 4.2 Structures of compounds discussed in the text



these higher adduct levels to increased cancer risk (IARC, 2004b; Veglia *et al.*, 2008). However, there is much more limited evidence from studies using specific carcinogen-derived DNA adducts as biomarkers (Pfeifer *et al.*, 2002). Oxidative DNA damage has also been observed, and this may result partially from exposure to metals in cigarette smoke (Stavrides, 2006).

Cellular DNA repair systems can excise DNA adducts and restore normal DNA structure (Christmann *et al.*, 2003). These complex multiple systems include direct base repair by alkyltransferases, removal of DNA damage by base and nucleotide excision repair, mismatch repair, and double strand repair. If these DNA repair systems are unsuccessful in fixing the damage, then the DNA adducts can persist, increasing the probability of a permanent mutation. There are polymorphisms in genes coding for some DNA repair enzymes. If these variants lead to deficient DNA repair, the probability of cancer development can increase (Vineis *et al.*, 2009).

DNA adducts can cause miscoding during replication when DNA polymerase enzymes misread the DNA adduct and consequently insert the wrong base opposite to it. There is some specificity in the relationship between specific DNA adducts formed from cigarette smoke carcinogens and the types of mutations which they cause. G to T and G to A mutations have often been observed (Section 4.1.3) (Hecht, 1999). Extensive studies have characterized the mutations which occur because of specific carcinogen-DNA adducts (Delaney & Essigmann, 2008). Mutations have been reported in the *KRAS* oncogene in lung cancer and in the *TP53* tumour suppressor gene in a variety of cigarette smoke-induced cancers (Ahrendt *et al.*, 2001; Pfeifer *et al.*, 2002; Ding *et al.*, 2008). The cancer causing role of these genes has been firmly established in animal studies (Lubet *et al.*, 2000; Johnson *et al.*, 2001). A selection and promotion process may also play a role in the final mutation spectrum seen in genes

in smoking-associated tumours (Rodin & Rodin, 2005; Sudo *et al.*, 2008).

Urinary mutagenicity, sister chromatid exchanges, micronuclei in buccal cells, and other genetic effects have been consistently observed in smokers at higher levels than in non-smokers (IARC, 2004a; Proia *et al.*, 2006). In addition to mutations, numerous cytogenetic changes are observed in lung cancer, and chromosome damage throughout the field of the aerodigestive tract is strongly associated with cigarette smoke exposure. Mutations resulting from DNA adducts can cause loss of normal cellular growth control functions, via a complex process of signal transduction pathways, ultimately resulting in genomic instability, cellular proliferation and cancer (Ding *et al.*, 2008). Apoptosis, or programmed cell death, is a protective process, and can remove cells which have DNA damage, thus serving as a counterbalance to these mutational events. The balance between apoptotic mechanisms and those suppressing apoptosis will have a major impact on tumour growth.

While the central track of Fig. 4.1 is the major pathway by which tobacco smoke carcinogens cause cancer, other mechanisms also contribute, as indicated in the top and bottom tracks (Hecht, 2003). Nicotine, NNK, and NNN bind to nicotinic and other cellular receptors, resulting in activation of serine/threonine kinase Akt (also known as protein kinase B), protein kinase A, and other changes. Nicotine and NNK increase expression of survivin, an inhibitor of apoptosis in normal human bronchial epithelial cells, and survivin mRNA is detected in bronchial brush samples from heavy smokers (Jin *et al.*, 2008). This can cause decreased apoptosis, increased angiogenesis, and increased transformation (Heeschen *et al.*, 2001; West *et al.*, 2003). Thus, although nicotine is not carcinogenic, it may enhance carcinogenicity in various ways (Schuller, 2009). Cigarette smoke also contains well established oxidants, co-carcinogens, tumour promoting fractions, and inflammatory agents, as well as



cilia-toxic compounds such as acrolein, which impede clearance. Many studies demonstrate the co-carcinogenic and cytotoxic effects of catechol, an important constituent of cigarette smoke. An epigenetic pathway frequently observed in tobacco-induced cancers is enzymatic methylation of promoter regions of genes such as *p16* and *FHIT* [fragile histidine triad gene, a gene coding for a dinucleoside 5', 5'''- P<sup>1</sup>, P<sup>3</sup>-triphosphate hydrolase, a putative tumour suppressor protein] resulting in gene silencing, which are also strongly implicated in tobacco-induced lung cancer (D'Agostini *et al.*, 2006; Bhutani *et al.*, 2008). When this occurs in tumour suppressor genes, the result can be unregulated proliferation (Belinsky, 2005). Inflammation due to smoking is associated with tumour promotion and activation of factors such as NFκB. Inflammation also plays a role in chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), which in turn is an independent risk factor for lung cancer (Smith *et al.*, 2006; Turner *et al.*, 2007; Lee *et al.*, 2008a).

This conceptual model can be applied to smokeless tobacco products. Smokeless tobacco products have much lower levels of carcinogens and toxicants that result from combustion, so the effects of these agents are not seen to a significant extent. The most prevalent strong carcinogens in smokeless tobacco are the tobacco-specific nitrosamines; other nitrosamines, PAHs, aldehydes and metals are also present, and there are large amounts of some inorganic salts that may contribute to inflammation (IARC, 2007a; Stepanov *et al.*, 2008). An additional factor in carcinogenesis by betel quid with tobacco is the basic pH resulting from addition of slaked lime to the quid, leading to oxidative damage and inflammation (IARC, 2004b).

Multiple studies demonstrate that tobacco-specific nitrosamines are absorbed and metabolised in smokeless tobacco users (IARC, 2007a).

There is evidence for DNA adduct formation in oral tissues of smokeless tobacco users, and sister chromatid exchanges, chromosomal

aberrations, and micronuclei – consequences of DNA adduct formation – have been reported (Proia *et al.*, 2006; Warnakulasuriya & Ralhan, 2007). Many studies have demonstrated RAS and TP53 mutations in smokeless tobacco users (Warnakulasuriya & Ralhan, 2007) consistent with the conceptual framework.

Oxidative stress and reactive oxygen species could play a significant role in cancer induction in smokeless tobacco users, particularly at high pH (Boffetta *et al.*, 2008). Chronic local inflammation and irritation induced by smokeless tobacco and its constituents could have a tumour promoting or co-carcinogenic effect (Boffetta *et al.*, 2008). Upregulation of cyclooxygenase-2, involved in prostaglandin synthesis and inflammation, has been observed in animal studies upon exposure to smokeless tobacco (Boffetta *et al.*, 2008). Smokeless tobacco products have relatively high levels of sodium chloride (NaCl), which could contribute to inflammation, tumour promotion, and co-carcinogenesis. Cancer of the oral cavity is strongly associated with tobacco smoking (IARC, 2004a) or chewing (IARC, 2007a) and alcoholic beverage drinking (IARC, 2010a). However only a fraction of exposed subjects develop tumours, which suggests that other exposures such as HPV may be independently involved or act as cofactors. HPV is known to infect the oral cavity of healthy individuals and several HPV-related lesions have been characterized (IARC, 2007b). Herpes simplex virus has also been shown to enhance the carcinogenicity of smokeless tobacco products in animal studies (Park *et al.*, 1986). These factors may contribute significantly to the local carcinogenic effects characteristic of smokeless tobacco use.

#### 4.1.2 Absorption, distribution, metabolism and excretion

There are examples of toxicant and carcinogen metabolism and excretion for representatives of virtually every major class of compounds;

some of these are summarized in [Table 4.1](#). Nicotine and five of its urinary metabolites – cotinine, 3'-hydroxycotinine and their glucuronides, and nicotine glucuronide – comprise about 73–96% of the nicotine dose ([Hukkanen et al., 2005](#)), and are found in blood, sweat, hair and toenails ([Al Delaimy, 2002](#); [Hukkanen et al., 2005](#); [Stepanov et al., 2007](#); [Al Delaimy & Willett, 2008](#)). Metabolites of various polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons including pyrene, phenanthrene, fluorene, and benzo[a]pyrene have been quantified in human urine and are higher in smokers than in non-smokers ([Hecht, 2002](#); [Hecht et al., 2005a](#); [Jacob et al., 2007](#); [Hansen et al., 2008](#)). Metabolites of tobacco-specific nitrosamines – NNAL and its glucuronides (total NNAL) from NNK; and NNN and its glucuronides (total NNN) from NNN – are present in human urine ([Hecht, 2002](#); [Stepanov & Hecht, 2005](#); [Hecht et al., 2008a](#); [Stepanov et al., 2008](#)). Total NNAL has also been quantified in blood and toenails ([Hecht et al., 2002](#); [Stepanov et al., 2007](#)). Aromatic amine-haemoglobin adducts have been frequently measured in human blood, and their levels increase with smoking ([Hecht, 2002](#); [Hatsukami et al., 2006a](#)). Mercapturic acids of several tobacco smoke compounds such as benzene, 1,3-butadiene, acrolein, and ethylene oxide are present in human urine and are related to smoking ([Carmella et al., 2009](#)). Haemoglobin adducts of acrylonitrile and related compounds are elevated in smokers' blood, and levels of metals such as Cd are increased in smokers' urine ([Carmella et al., 2002](#); [IARC, 2004b](#)).

All of the metabolites listed in [Table 4.1](#) are elevated in cigarette smokers; in studies of second-hand smoke exposure, only nicotine metabolites and urinary total NNAL are consistently increased in exposed versus non-exposed subjects, although one very large study also observed an increase in PAH metabolites ([Pirkle et al., 2006](#); [Hecht, 2008](#); [Suwan-ampai et al., 2009](#)). Smokeless tobacco users have significantly raised levels of nicotine metabolites

and tobacco-specific nitrosamine metabolites compared to non-tobacco users ([Hecht et al., 2007](#)).

#### 4.1.3 Biomarkers

Tobacco carcinogen biomarkers are quantifiable entities that can be *specifically* related to tobacco carcinogens. Specificity to a given carcinogen is critical because tobacco carcinogens vary widely in their potency and target organs.

Considering the mechanistic framework outlined in Fig. 4.1, one could visualize various types of biomarkers. Currently, biomarkers of carcinogen/toxicant dose, reflecting the second box of the central track of Fig. 4.1, are by far the most extensively used and validated. The second most common are measurements of DNA adducts (or protein adducts as their surrogates), but fewer of these have both practical utility and validation with respect to tobacco carcinogen specificity.

The use of tobacco carcinogen biomarkers bypasses many uncertainties in estimation of dose. The most commonly used estimation of dose is self-reported number of cigarettes/day, but this is not a very good marker. It may not be reported accurately and it provides no information on the way in which the cigarettes were smoked, which is critical when one considers the common phenomenon of smoker's compensation. Brand information together with machine smoking measurements of specific components is another way of obtaining a measure of dose. However, machine smoking measurements are known to have limitations and the application of a given machine smoking protocol to a given smoker requires smoking topography measurements for that smoker. A disadvantage of tobacco carcinogen biomarkers is that they are affected to some extent by individual differences in metabolism, which may complicate interpretation of dose.

**Table 4.1 Examples of toxicant or carcinogen metabolites in tobacco users**

Toxicant or carcinogen	Examples of metabolites in tobacco users	References
Nicotine	Cotinine, 3'-hydroxycotinine and their glucuronides in urine, blood or saliva; nicotine and cotinine in toenails	<a href="#">Al Delaimy (2002)</a> , <a href="#">Hukkanen et al. (2005)</a> , <a href="#">Al Delaimy &amp; Willett (2008)</a> , <a href="#">Stepanov et al. (2007)</a>
Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs)	1-hydroxypyrene, phenanthrols, phenanthrene tetraols, fluorenols, benzo[a]pyrenols, benzo[a]pyrene tetraols in urine	<a href="#">Hecht (2002)</a> , <a href="#">Hecht et al. (2005a)</a> , <a href="#">Hansen et al. (2008)</a> , <a href="#">Jacob et al. (2007)</a>
Tobacco-specific nitrosamines	NNAL and its glucuronides (total NNAL) in urine or blood, total NNN in urine; NNAL and NNN in toenails	<a href="#">Hecht (2002)</a> , <a href="#">Hecht et al. (2002, 2008a)</a> , <a href="#">Stepanov &amp; Hecht (2005)</a> , <a href="#">Stepanov et al., (2007, 2008)</a>
Aromatic amines	Parent amines in urine and haemoglobin adducts in blood	<a href="#">Hecht (2002)</a> , <a href="#">Hatsukami et al. (2006a)</a>
Volatile hydrocarbons		
Benzene 1,3-Butadiene	Muconic acid and S-phenyl-mercapturic acid (SPMA) in urine; Monohydroxybutyl-mercapturic acid (MHBMA) in urine	<a href="#">Hecht (2002)</a> , <a href="#">Carmella et al. (2009)</a>
Acrolein	3-hydroxypropyl-mercapturic acid (HPMA) in urine	<a href="#">Carmella et al. (2009)</a>
Ethylene oxide	2-hydroxyethyl-mercapturic acid (HEMA) in urine, haemoglobin adducts in blood	<a href="#">Bono et al. (2002)</a> , <a href="#">Carmella et al. (2009)</a>
Acrylonitrile	Haemoglobin adducts in blood	<a href="#">Carmella et al. (2002)</a>
Metals	Cadmium in urine	<a href="#">IARC (2004a)</a>

#### (a) Urinary biomarkers

Probably the most practical and, to date, the most extensively applied tobacco carcinogen biomarkers are urinary metabolites of tobacco carcinogens, and these have been comprehensively reviewed ([Hecht, 2002](#); [IARC, 2004a](#)). Advantages include the ready availability of samples, and concentrations in urine that are easily quantifiable using modern analytical chemistry methods, most frequently liquid chromatography-tandem mass spectrometry (LC-MS/MS). The urinary metabolites listed in [Table 4.1](#) have all been used as biomarkers and all are validated with respect to exposure in cigarette smokers ([Carmella et al., 2009](#)). Total nicotine equivalents (the sum of nicotine and the five metabolites in [Table 4.1](#)) is a particularly effective way of estimating nicotine dose from tobacco products.

Total NNAL, the sum of NNAL and its glucuronides, is a highly useful biomarker of NNK exposure ([Hecht, 2002, 2003](#); [Hatsukami et al., 2006a](#)). The tobacco-specificity of NNK, and therefore total NNAL, is a key feature of this biomarker because studies in which it is applied are not confounded by other environmental or dietary exposures. It also has a considerably longer half-life than cotinine and several other urinary biomarkers. Total NNAL has been used in numerous studies that estimated uptake of NNK in smokers under varying circumstances. In one example, smokers reduced their number of cigarettes smoked per day, but there was not a corresponding decrease in NNK uptake due to compensation ([Hecht et al., 2004](#)). In another study, NNK and PAH uptake, estimated by total NNAL and 1-hydroxypyrene, respectively, were compared in smokers of regular, light, and ultra-light cigarettes, and found to be similar, consistent with epidemiologic studies that

demonstrate no protection against lung cancer in smokers of light compared to regular cigarettes (Hecht *et al.*, 2005b). Other studies evaluated NNK uptake in smokers who switched from their current cigarette brand to products advertised as being less hazardous, but the results generally did not support these claims (Hatsukami *et al.*, 2004). One of the most useful applications of total NNAL has been in studies of non-smokers exposed to second-hand tobacco smoke (Hecht, 2003). The sensitivity and specificity of this biomarker are ideal for such studies, and it is the most commonly elevated tobacco carcinogen biomarker in non-smokers exposed to second-hand smoke. Total NNAL has also found utility in establishing NNK uptake in smokeless tobacco users (Hecht *et al.*, 2002, 2007, 2008a, b; Hecht, 2008).

The relationship of urinary total NNAL to lung cancer was demonstrated in a study of stored urine samples collected years before diagnosis of lung cancer from smokers in Shanghai, China and Singapore (Yuan *et al.*, 2009). There was a significant relationship between total NNAL and lung cancer incidence, after correction for numbers of cigarettes smoked per day and duration of smoking. An 8.5 fold increased risk for lung cancer was observed for those smokers in the highest tertile of total NNAL and cotinine, relative to smokers with the same smoking history but in the lowest tertiles of total NNAL and cotinine. Urinary biomarkers were also used to demonstrate higher uptake of nicotine and NNK per cigarette in smokers with polymorphisms in the nicotinic acetylcholine genes associated with lung cancer in genome-wide association studies (see Section 4.2; Le Marchand *et al.*, 2008). Collectively, these results indicate that urinary total NNAL is not only a biomarker of exposure, but also a biomarker of risk for lung cancer.

### (b) Serum and saliva metabolites

Serum and saliva metabolites have been used as biomarkers much less often than urine metabolites. The most frequently measured tobacco smoke toxicant in serum and saliva is cotinine, documented as a useful biomarker of cigarette smoking in many studies (Lee, 1999; Hukkanen *et al.*, 2005). Total NNAL can be readily quantified in serum and its levels remain relatively constant in a given smoker sampled at bimonthly intervals over a one year period. Consistent with the results described above, one study showed a significant relationship between total NNAL in prospectively collected serum samples from smokers and lung cancer risk (Church *et al.*, 2009). Other biomarkers that have been measured in serum include cadmium, benzene, styrene and *r*-1,*t*-2,3,*c*-4-tetrahydroxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydrophenanthrene (PheT) (IARC, 2004a; Church *et al.*, 2009).

### (c) DNA adducts

Fig. 4.3 presents an overview of metabolism and DNA adduct formation from eight tobacco smoke compounds (clockwise from top left): BaP, NNK, *N*-nitrosodimethylamine (NDMA), NNN, acrolein, ethylene oxide, acetaldehyde and 4-aminobiphenyl. Evidence exists for DNA adduct formation from each of these carcinogens in smokers, based on studies carried out with tissues or blood cells. DNA adduct biomarkers have been applied mainly in studies of smokers, and there is far less evidence from studies of second-hand tobacco smoke or smokeless tobacco use.

The structures of DNA adducts of tobacco smoke carcinogens have been characterized in detail, but a complete description of these structures is beyond the scope of this section. Selected DNA adduct structures are shown in Fig. 4.4. A major DNA adduct of BaP results from *trans*- addition of the benzo[*a*]pyrene diol epoxide (BPDE) to the *N*<sup>2</sup>-position of dG (Szeliga



**Fig. 4.3 Overview of metabolism and DNA adduct formation from eight tobacco smoke constituents**

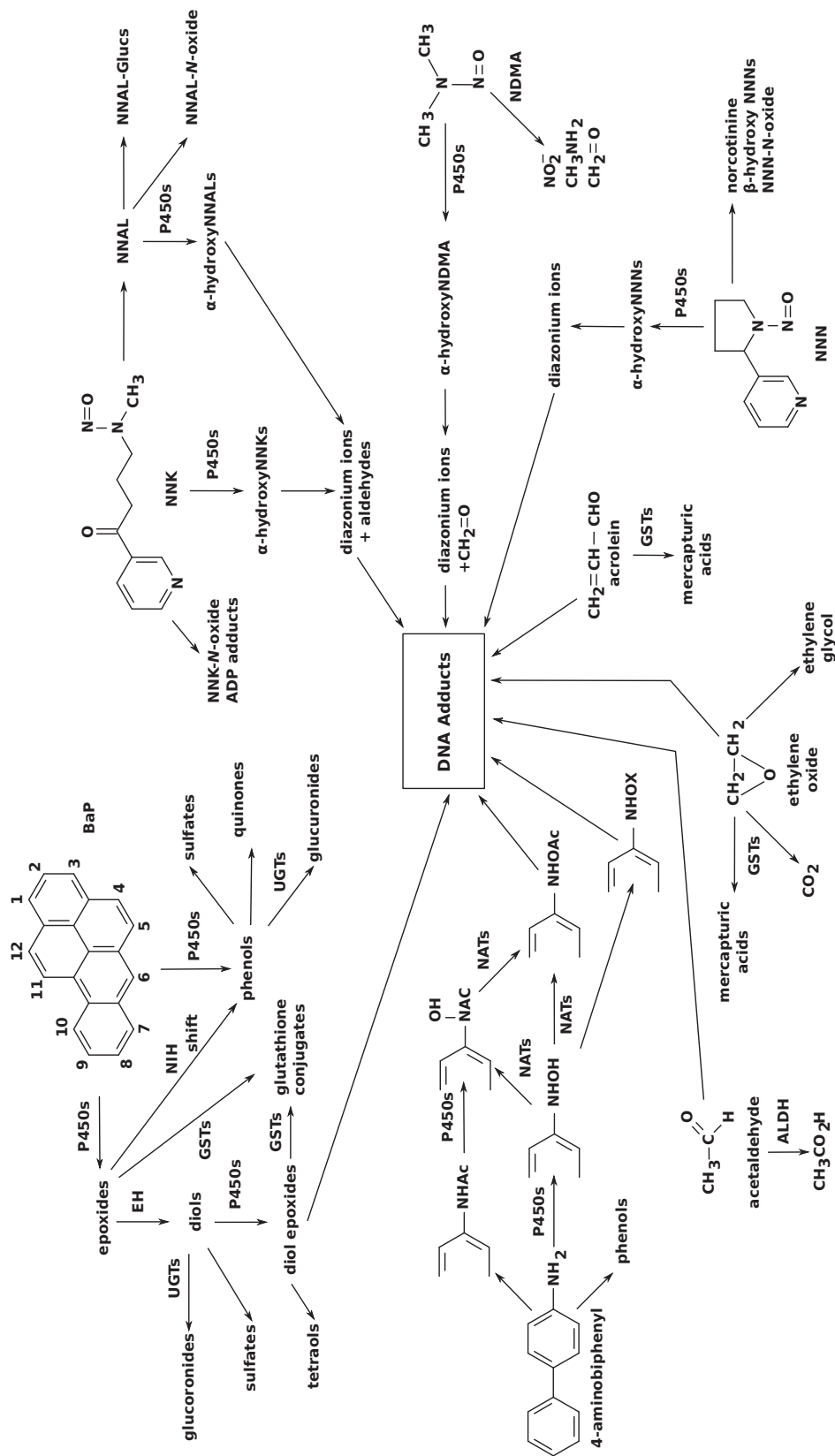
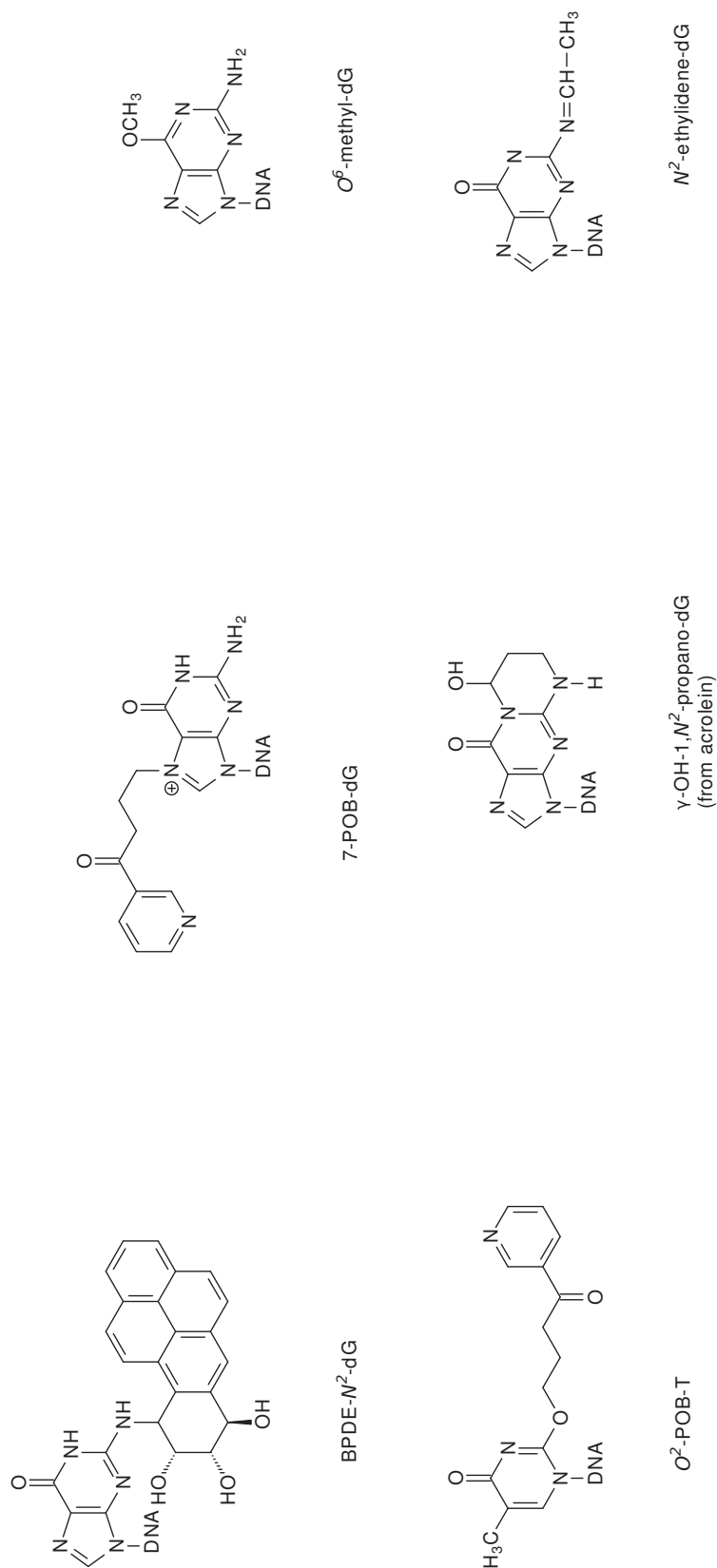




Fig. 4.4 Structures of some DNA adducts of tobacco smoke constituents



BPDE-*N*<sup>2</sup>-dG, benzo[*a*]pyrene diol epoxide-*N*<sup>2</sup>-deoxyguanosine; 7-POB-dG, pyridyloxobutyl-deoxyguanosine; *O*<sup>2</sup>-POB-T, *O*<sup>2</sup>-pyridyloxobutyl-thymidine

& Dipple, 1998). Pyridyloxobutyl (POB)-DNA adducts of NNK and NNN are formed at the 7- and  $O^6$ -positions of deoxyguanosine dG, the  $O^2$ -position of thymidine, and the  $O^2$ -position of deoxycytidine (Hecht, 2008). They can be measured in part as 4-hydroxy-1-(3-pyridyl)-1-butanone (HPB) released upon hydrolysis. Metabolic activation of NNK also leads to 7-methyl-dG and  $O^6$ -methyl-dG, identical to the DNA adducts formed from NDMA and other DNA methylating agents (Hecht, 2008). Ethylating agents and ethylene oxide in cigarette smoke also alkylate dG (Zhao *et al.*, 1999; Singh *et al.*, 2005). Acrolein and crotonaldehyde react with DNA to produce exocyclic 1, $N^2$ -dG adducts, while acetaldehyde forms a Schiff base adduct with the exocyclic  $N^2$  amino group of dG. There is evidence for the presence of all these DNA adducts in tissues or blood cells of smokers, but there are also many studies in which these specific adducts have been sought but not found (Boysen & Hecht, 2003).

Measurement of these DNA adducts as biomarkers potentially can provide the most direct link between cellular exposure and cancer, because DNA adducts are so critical in carcinogenesis. However, it is challenging because their levels are extremely low, frequently ranging from 1 per  $10^6$  to 1 per  $10^8$  normal bases, and the tissue or blood samples containing them are usually available in only small quantities. Fortunately, the routine detection ofamol levels [attomole, equivalent to 10 moles] of DNA adducts by conventional LC-MS/MS techniques is now feasible (Singh & Farmer, 2006). There are still relatively few examples of quantitation of *specific* DNA adducts of tobacco carcinogens in tissues of smokers using mass spectrometry, high pressure liquid chromatography (HPLC)-fluorescence, HPLC with electrochemical detection, or postlabelling techniques (Pfeifer *et al.*, 2002). A much larger body of work has used the highly sensitive, but relatively non-specific  $^{32}\text{P}$ -postlabelling and immunoassay methods of

DNA adduct detection. Although the adducts detected using  $^{32}\text{P}$ -postlabelling are often referred to as “aromatic DNA adducts,” there is strong evidence that they are not related to PAHs (Arif *et al.*, 2006). Adduct levels are generally higher in lung tissues of smokers than non-smokers while studies using blood DNA have produced varied results. Adducts have also been detected in the larynx, oral and nasal mucosa, bladder, cervix, breast, pancreas, stomach, placenta, foetal tissue, cardiovascular tissues, sputum, and sperm of smokers (IARC, 2004a). A meta-analysis of the relationship of DNA adduct levels in smokers to cancer, as determined by  $^{32}\text{P}$ -postlabelling in the majority of studies or enzyme linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA), demonstrated a positive relationship in current smokers (Veglia *et al.*, 2003; 2008).

#### (d) Protein adducts

Carcinogen-haemoglobin (Hb) and serum albumin adducts are regarded as surrogates for DNA adduct measurements. Although these proteins are not targets for carcinogenesis, virtually all carcinogens that react with DNA will also react with protein. Advantages of haemoglobin adducts include the ready availability of haemoglobin from blood and the relatively long lifetime of the erythrocyte in humans – 120 days –, which provides an opportunity for adducts to accumulate. Studies on protein adducts in smokers have been comprehensively reviewed (IARC, 2004a).

Haemoglobin adducts of aromatic amines are a highly informative type of carcinogen biomarker, with levels that are consistently higher in smokers than non-smokers, particularly for 3-aminobiphenyl and 4-aminobiphenyl-Hb adducts. Haemoglobin binds aromatic amines efficiently because heme accelerates the rate of nitrosoarene formation from the hydroxylamine, which is produced metabolically from the aromatic amine by CYP1A2 (Fig. 4.3; Skipper & Tannenbaum, 1990). Binding of the nitrosoarene occurs at the  $\beta$ -93 cysteine residue of human

haemoglobin; the adduct is hydrolysed releasing the free amine, which is quantified by GC-MS (Skipper & Tannenbaum, 1990). Adduct levels are clearly related to cigarette smoking (Skipper & Tannenbaum, 1990). Adducts that form at the terminal valine of haemoglobin are also useful biomarkers: examples include those derived from ethylene oxide, acrylonitrile and acrylamide (Bergmark, 1997; Fennell *et al.*, 2000). Ethylated N-terminal valine of haemoglobin is also higher in smokers than in non-smokers (Carmella *et al.*, 2002).

HPB-releasing Hb adducts of NNK and NNN have been quantified in studies of smokers and smokeless tobacco users (IARC, 2004a, 2007a). These adducts are thought to be tobacco-specific, but some studies report their presence in non-smokers (Falter *et al.*, 1994; Schlöbe *et al.*, 2008).

#### 4.1.4 Genetic and related effects

##### (a) Mutagenicity and cytogenetic effects

Tobacco smoke and its condensates are mutagenic in a wide variety of test systems from bacteria to mammalian cells in culture to rodents and humans (DeMarini, 2004; IARC, 2004a; Husgafvel-Pursiainen, 2004). In bacterial systems, the heterocyclic amines and aromatic amines in condensates account for much of the frameshift mutagenicity, whereas the PAHs and nitrosamines may account for some of the base-substitution mutagenicity (DeMarini *et al.*, 1995). G to T is the predominant class of base-substitution mutation induced by condensates in experimental systems and found in oncogenes and tumour-suppressor genes in smoking-associated lung tumours (IARC, 2004a). The genotoxic potencies of a variety of condensates in several genotoxicity assays likely have only qualitative value with regard to health risk assessment (DeMarini *et al.*, 2008). This is consistent with findings that smokers of low- or high-tar cigarettes have similar urinary levels of lung carcinogens (Hecht *et al.*, 2005b; Hatsukami *et al.*,

2006b) and similar risks for lung cancer (Harris *et al.*, 2004).

In rodents, cigarette smoke induces sister chromatid exchange and micronuclei in bone marrow and lung cells. Human newborns of smoking mothers have increased frequencies of *HPRT* mutations, chromosomal translocations, and DNA strand breaks. Sperm of smokers has increased frequencies of aneuploidy, DNA adducts, strand breaks, and oxidative damage. Cigarette smoke also causes germ-cell mutations in mice (Yauk *et al.*, 2007). Collectively, these data suggest that smoking is likely a germ-cell mutagen in humans. Smoking produces mutagenic urine and somatic-cell mutations in humans, including *HPRT* mutations, sister chromatid exchange, microsatellite instability and DNA damage in a variety of tissues. Genotoxic effects have been found in eight organ sites at which tobacco smoke causes cancer in humans (DeMarini, 2004; IARC, 2004a).

##### (b) Mutations in *TP53*, *KRAS* and related genes

Gene mutation data from a variety of databases, including the IARC Cancer *TP53* Mutation Database (<http://www-p53.iarc.fr/>), have been collated in the Genetic Alterations in Cancer (GAC) database (<http://dir-apps.niehs.nih.gov/gac/>) so that mutations in a variety of genes in various cancerous tissues can be compared. An assessment of the Gene Alterations in Cancer database showed that at least three genes were mutated more frequently in lung tumours from smokers than non-smokers (Lea *et al.*, 2007): *TP53* (39 versus 26%), *K-RAS* (20 versus 3%), and loss of heterozygosity at *FHIT* (57 versus 27%). Thus, genes in the cell cycle (*TP53*), cell signalling (*KRAS*) and apoptotic (*FHIT*) pathways are mutated more frequently in smoking- rather than in nonsmoking-associated lung tumours. Genomic sequencing of lung tumours has identified other mutated genes that are associated with smoking; ten times more genes are mutated in

lung tumours from smokers compared to non-smokers ([Ding et al., 2008](#)).

GC to TA transversions were the predominant class of base-substitution mutation found in *TP53* and *KRAS* genes in lung tumours from smokers, with the frequency of this mutation in *TP53* being 30% in smokers versus 22% in non-smokers. In smoking-associated oral cancers, the percentage of GC to TA mutations in *TP53* was 15% versus 2%, respectively. This mutation spectrum is consistent with that produced by a variety of known carcinogens present in tobacco smoke ([IARC, 2004a](#)). At the codon level, the most frequently mutated codons in *TP53* in lung tumours of smokers were 157, 175, 245, 248, and 273, all of which occur in the DNA-binding domain of the protein; among these codons, only 273 was mutated in lung tumours from non-smokers. Only three of these codons (157, 245 and 273) were mutated in smoking-associated larynx tumours, and only codon 157 was mutated in smoking-associated oral tumours. Thus, the mutational specificity at *TP53* is different among smoking- and nonsmoking-associated tumours and among smoking-associated tumours at various organs ([Lea et al., 2007](#)). Thus, different pathways are involved in the development of different types of tumours ([Le Calvez et al., 2005](#); [Mounawar et al., 2007](#); [Subramanian & Govindan, 2008](#)).

#### 4.1.5 Effects on gene expression profile

As indicated in a review by [Sen et al. \(2007\)](#) involving microarray analysis of 18 studies in human smokers, 7 in smoke-exposed rodents, and 3 in condensate-exposed mammalian cells, smoking generally upregulated a wide variety of genes, especially those involved in the stress response, phase I metabolism, and immune response. Genes that were consistently expressed differentially in smokers (as assessed in alveolar macrophages, lung cells or peripheral lymphocytes) included metallothioneins, heat-shock

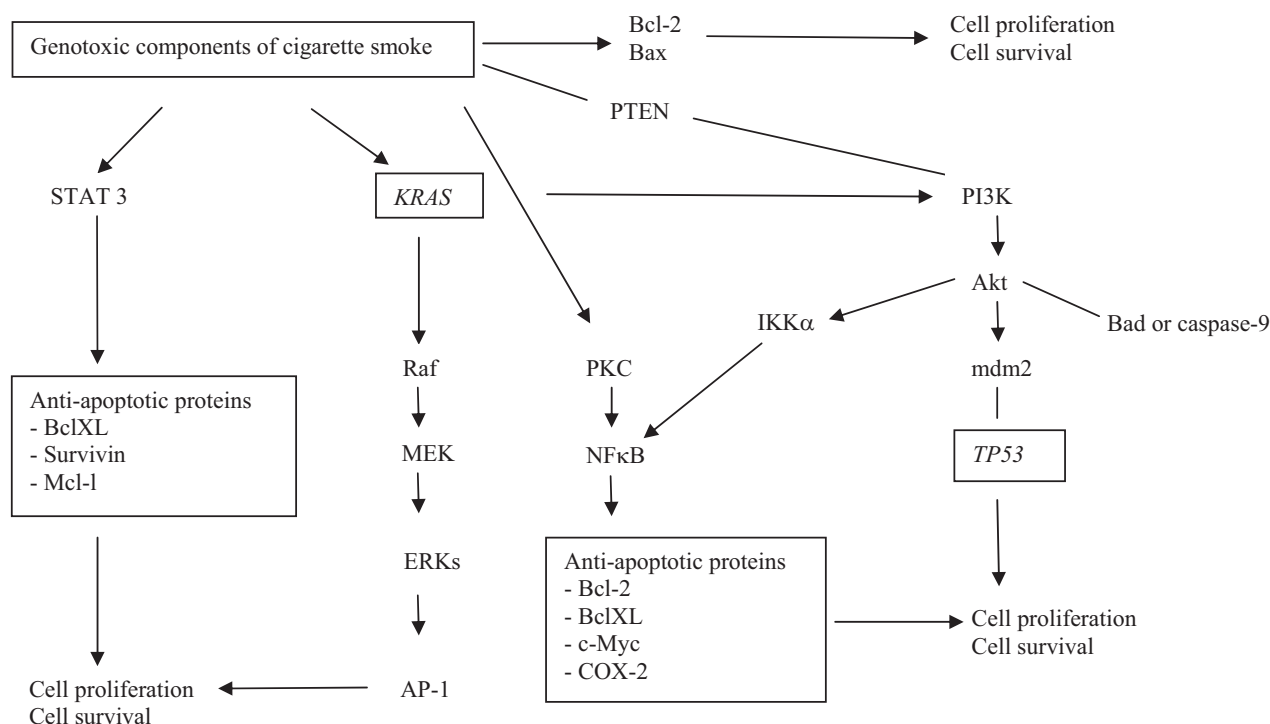
proteins, superoxide dismutase, glutathione transferase, heme oxygenase, *CYP* genes (*1A2*, *1A1* and *1B1*), interleukins and chemokines.

[Spira et al. \(2004\)](#) analysed global gene expression in bronchial epithelial cells and found that the expression levels of metabolizing and antioxidant genes had reverted to control levels after two years of smoking cessation. However, expression of potential oncogenes and tumour-suppressor genes never reverted to never-smoker levels even after years of smoking cessation. Consistently, expression of microRNAs is generally downregulated by cigarette smoke ([Izzotti et al., 2009](#)). As discussed below, smoking also altered methylation patterns and gene expression in smoking-associated tumours.

#### 4.1.6 Other effects associated with carcinogenesis

##### (a) Proliferation, differentiation, apoptosis, and inflammation

As noted above, the signal-transduction pathways in lung tumours from smokers are distinctly different from those of non-smokers ([Mountzios et al., 2008](#)). Fig 4.5 shows details of signalling pathways that are deregulated by tobacco smoke. The involvement of high frequencies of mutated *K-RAS* and *TP53* genes in smoking-associated lung tumours results in altered regulation of cell proliferation, differentiation, cytoskeletal organization and protein trafficking. Cigarette smoking activates *NF- $\kappa$ B*, which induces pro-inflammatory cytokine expression and induces growth factors and proliferative signals ([Mountzios et al., 2008](#)). This gene also influences the expression of the anti-apoptotic gene *BCL2* and pro-apoptotic gene *BAX*. Smoking produces chronic inflammation, which promotes cancer ([Walser et al., 2008](#)). Smoking results in high levels of reactive oxygen species, which damage epithelial and endothelial cells and impair their function. In smoking-associated lung cancer, elevated levels of cyclooxygenase-2 (COX-2) and

**Fig. 4.5 General scheme of some cell-signalling pathways that are deregulated by tobacco smoke in lung carcinogenesis**

Akt, serine/threonine protein kinase; ERKs, extracellular regulated kinases; MEK, mitogen-activated protein kinase; Bad, Bcl2-associated agonist of cell death; PI3K, phosphatidylinositol 3-kinase; PKC, protein kinase C; NF-κB, nuclear factor κB; IKKα, inhibitor of nuclear factor κ-B kinase; PTEN, phosphatase and tensin homologue; STAT3, signal transducer and activator of transcription, COX-2, cyclooxygenase-2

prostaglandin (PGE<sub>2</sub>) indicate apoptosis resistance, proliferation, immunosuppression, angiogenesis, invasion, and epithelial-mesenchymal transition (Walser *et al.*, 2008).

#### (b) Endogenous nitrosation

Intragastric formation of *N*-nitroso compounds, measured using urinary nitrosamino acids excreted in urine, was increased in smokers compared to non-smokers (Hoffmann & Brunnemann, 1983). Two recent studies demonstrated that NNN forms endogenously in some users of nicotine replacement therapy products (Stepanov *et al.*, 2009a, b).

#### (c) Hormonal changes

These are described in Section 4.3.2a.

## 4.2 Polymorphisms in carcinogen-metabolizing genes

### 4.2.1 Introduction

It has been long proposed that the known variation among individuals in their capacity to activate and detoxify carcinogens may be associated with increased susceptibility to cancer, and that polymorphisms of carcinogen-metabolising genes may play a significant role. The most intensively studied genes involved in the metabolism of carcinogens include the various *CYP* genes, the *GST* genes and the *NAT* genes. Other relevant xenobiotic-metabolising genes, such as *EPHX*, sulfotransferase (*SULT*), *UGT*, myeloperoxidase (*MPO*), and NAD(P)H quinone oxidoreductase-1 (*NQO1*) genes, have also been studied. Recently, extensive pooled studies and



reviews have been published on polymorphisms of carcinogen-metabolising genes and their role in cancer susceptibility, especially in tobacco-related lung cancer and cancers at other sites. Similarly, various biomarkers of exposure and genotoxicity that are presumed to provide a mechanistic basis for such associations have been comprehensively investigated in relation to these polymorphisms. A brief overview based largely on reviews and the meta- and pooled analyses is presented here.

#### 4.2.2 Genetic polymorphisms of carcinogen metabolism: some central genes

##### (a) CYP genes

CYPs comprise the principal enzyme system catalysing various phase I oxidation reactions, including metabolic activation and detoxification of many carcinogenic substances in tobacco smoke such as PAHs. Of the various CYP enzymes expressed in humans, many of those belonging to CYP1 to CYP3 families play a role in carcinogen metabolism, producing highly reactive DNA-damaging metabolites as well as detoxified metabolites ([Guengerich & Shimada, 1998](#); [Lang & Pelkonen, 1999](#); [Ingelman-Sundberg, 2004](#)). CYPs have evolved into a wide superfamily with close to 60 different active genes currently identified; most of these genes exhibit polymorphism ([www.cypalleles.ki.se](http://www.cypalleles.ki.se)).

##### (i) CYP1A1

Several allelic variants of the human *CYP1A1* gene are currently known ([www.cypalleles.ki.se](http://www.cypalleles.ki.se)). The major variant forms of the *CYP1A1* gene (wildtype allele *CYP1A1\*1*) mostly frequently studied for association to cancer susceptibility include the following two alleles: (i) *CYP1A1\*2A* allele (m1 allele; *Msp* I) and (ii) *CYP1A1\*2B* ([Cascorbi et al., 1996](#)) or *CYP1A1\*2C* ([www.cypalleles.ki.se](http://www.cypalleles.ki.se)) allele (m2 allele; Ile<sup>462</sup>Val). Importantly, the *CYP1A1* m1 allele and m2 allele are in complete linkage disequilibrium in

Caucasians ([Kawajiri, 1999](#); [Bartsch et al., 2000](#)). In addition, *CYP1A1\*4* allele (m4; Thr<sup>461</sup>Asn) ([Cascorbi et al., 1996](#)), and *CYP1A1\*3* (m3) allele found in African-Americans but not in Caucasians or Asians ([Crofts et al., 1993](#)) are included in some studies ([Bartsch et al., 2000](#)).

In smoking-related lung cancer, the various *CYP1A1* polymorphisms as well as the differences in the frequencies of the rare variant alleles between ethnicities contribute to the differences in findings. There are collective analyses of data predominantly indicating an overall mild to moderate effect of *CYP1A1* polymorphisms on lung cancer risk ([Kawajiri, 1999](#); [Bartsch et al., 2000](#); [Houlston, 2000](#); [Le Marchand et al., 2003](#); [Vineis et al., 2003](#); [Vineis et al., 2004](#); [Lee et al., 2008a](#); [Shi et al., 2008](#)). In many reviews and meta- or pooled analyses the increased risk associated with *CYP1A1* polymorphism has most clearly been seen in Asian populations ([Kawajiri, 1999](#); [Le Marchand et al., 2003](#); [Vineis et al., 2003](#); [Lee et al., 2008a](#); [Shi et al., 2008](#)).

Multiple studies have also analysed the gene-gene interactions between *CYP1A1*, *GSTM1* and *GSTT1* polymorphisms and lung cancer ([d'Errico et al., 1999](#); [Houlston, 1999](#); [Benhamou et al., 2002](#); [Bolt & Thier, 2006](#); [Raimondi et al., 2006](#); [Ye et al., 2006](#); [Carlsten et al., 2008](#)). Some of the analyses have indicated that the elevated risk for lung cancer may be more pronounced for some *CYP1A1/GSTM1* null genotype combinations ([Le Marchand et al., 1998](#); [Bartsch et al., 2000](#); [Vineis et al., 2004, 2007](#); [Lee et al., 2008a](#); [Shi et al., 2008](#)).

##### (ii) CYP1A2

*CYP1A2* is highly inducible and metabolises, including deacetylation reactions, many tobacco smoke carcinogens such as aromatic and heterocyclic amines and nitro-aromatic compounds, and tobacco-specific nitrosamines such as NNK ([Nebert et al., 2004](#); [Jalas et al., 2005](#); [IARC, 2007a](#)). A few major variant alleles have been described ([www.cypalleles.ki.se](http://www.cypalleles.ki.se)), some of which

may have been reported to influence inducibility ([Nakajima et al., 1999](#); [Ingelman-Sundberg et al., 2007](#)). Overall, the phenotype-genotype relations have not been well established for *CYP1A2*, although current evidence points towards contribution of genetic variation ([Murayama et al., 2004](#); [Ingelman-Sundberg et al., 2007](#)); data on possible associations with tobacco related cancer are sparse ([Agundez, 2004](#); [Nebert & Dalton, 2006](#)).

#### (iii) *CYP2A6*

Several aspects of smoking behaviour are likely to be influenced by *CYP2A6* genetic variation, which influences nicotine metabolism ([Malaiyandi et al., 2005](#); [Mwenifumbo & Tyndale, 2007](#)). The most important functionally altered allele is *CYP2A6*\*4 (gene deletion), which confers a poor-metabolizer phenotype in homozygous individuals ([Malaiyandi et al., 2005](#); [Ingelman-Sundberg et al., 2007](#); [Mwenifumbo & Tyndale, 2007](#)). In some studies, polymorphic variants of *CYP2A6* gene have been implicated in susceptibility to smoking-related cancers ([Gambier et al., 2005](#); [Malaiyandi et al., 2005](#); [Nakajima, 2007](#)). In line with this, the accumulated data have suggested that *CYP2A6* polymorphism may affect cancer risk in smokers but not in non-smokers ([Tan et al., 2001](#); [Kamatani et al., 2005](#); [Malaiyandi et al., 2005](#); [Canova et al., 2009](#)).

#### (iv) *CYP2A13*

From human CYPs, *CYP2A13* is the primary form involved in the metabolic activation of the tobacco-specific nitrosamines NNK and NNN ([Jalas et al., 2005](#); [IARC, 2007a](#)). The *CYP2A13* gene exhibits polymorphism in humans ([Zhang et al., 2002](#); [Jalas et al., 2005](#)), and experimental studies suggest that some of the polymorphisms may affect the hydroxylation of NNN and NNK ([Jalas et al., 2005](#); [Schlicht et al., 2007](#)). However, the data on possible effects of these polymorphisms on the risk of tobacco-related cancers in

humans are still limited ([Wang et al., 2003](#); [Song et al., 2009](#); [Timofeeva et al., 2009](#)).

#### (v) *CYP2D6*

The *CYP2D6* gene shows high variability in expression. The enzyme is not inducible, and therefore genetic variation largely contributes to the interindividual variation in enzyme activity. Currently, more than 100 different functional *CYP2D6* gene variants have been described, and these are divided into alleles causing abolished, decreased, normal, and ultrarapid enzyme activity ([Ingelman-Sundberg, 2005](#); [Ingelman-Sundberg et al., 2007](#)). The most important null alleles leading to poor-metabolizer phenotype are *CYP2D6*\*4 (splice defect) and *CYP2D6*\*5 (gene deletion) ([Ingelman-Sundberg, 2005](#); [Ingelman-Sundberg et al., 2007](#)).

A large series of studies have been carried out over the past 20 years on the association between *CYP2D6* polymorphism and susceptibility to lung cancer and to some other tobacco-related cancers ([Wolf & Smith, 1999](#)). Despite some indication of an association between *CYP2D6* poor-metabolizer and decreased risk for lung cancer, no major role for *CYP2D6* in carcinogen metabolism or a molecular basis for such an association have been discovered ([Wolf & Smith, 1999](#); [Ingelman-Sundberg, 2005](#)).

#### (vi) *Other CYP genes*

*CYP1B1* allelic variants that affect the catalytic activity have been described but they have been studied to a lesser extent for the association with susceptibility to smoking-related cancers ([Thier et al., 2003](#)). Some positive findings have been reported on head and neck cancer ([Ko et al., 2001](#)), and lung cancer ([Zienolddiny et al., 2008](#)).

Several polymorphisms have been characterized in the *CYP2E1* gene and several positive associations with the risk of different cancers have been reported, in particular for cancers of the upper aerodigestive tract, lung and gastrointestinal tract (Section 2.19). *CYP2E1* may also

play an important role in the interaction of the carcinogenic effects of alcohol and tobacco (Section 4.4).

From the human *CYP3A* locus (*CYP3A4*, *CYP3A5* and *CYP3A7*), the *CYP3A4\*1B* allele has been associated with lung cancer and prostate cancer in some studies but not in all ([Dally et al., 2003](#); [Rodriguez-Antona & Ingelman-Sundberg, 2006](#)). However, the role of these variants in relation to tobacco smoking is unknown.

#### (b) *GSTM1* and other *GST* genes

Polymorphic *GST* genes have long been proposed to modify susceptibility to lung cancer ([Seidegård et al., 1986](#); [Ketterer et al., 1992](#)). The polymorphic genes encoding the various classes of cytosolic *GST* enzymes include the *GSTM1* and *GSTM3* genes (mu class), the *GSTP1* gene (pi class), and the *GSTT1* gene (theta class). The gene deletion (null) allele of the *GSTM1* gene (*GSTM1\*0*) and of the *GSTT1* gene (*GSTT1\*0*) have been the most intensively studied polymorphisms in relation to increased susceptibility to cancer ([Strange et al., 2001](#); [Bolt & Thier, 2006](#); [McIlwain et al., 2006](#)). For the *GSTP1* gene, the form most abundantly present in lung tissue, genetic variation in exon 5 (*GSTP1\*2*; *Ile<sup>105</sup>Val*), in exon 6 (*Ala<sup>114</sup>Val*), as well as a combination of these, are the variations most frequently studied for cancer susceptibility ([Watson et al., 1998](#); [Cote et al., 2009](#)).

Numerous reviews, meta- and pooled analyses have been published over the past 15 years or so for the *GST* genes with systematic assessments covering altogether tens of thousands of cases and controls. For the *GSTM1* null genotype, such analyses have largely provided negative, suggestive or at most moderately positive results for an association with an increased risk for lung cancer ([d'Errico et al., 1999](#); [Houlston, 1999](#); [Benhamou et al., 2002](#); [Ye et al., 2006](#); [Carlsten et al., 2008](#)). The larger the studies, the less significant the estimates for the role of *GSTM1* emerge in systematic analysis ([Ye et al., 2006](#); [Carlsten](#)

[et al., 2008](#)). Also the varying allele frequencies related to ethnic background affect the findings for *GSTM1* as well as for many other genes ([Garte et al., 2001](#); [Ye et al., 2006](#); [Carlsten et al., 2008](#); [Lee et al., 2008a](#)).

In a meta-analysis of the association between the *GSTT1* gene polymorphism and lung cancer no association between *GSTT1* null genotype and risk for lung cancer in Caucasians was observed, but a positive association was found for Asians ([Raimondi et al., 2006](#)). A significant association for either Caucasians or Asians was also not found in a pooled analysis ([Raimondi et al., 2006](#)). A meta-analysis found no significant association between lung cancer risk and the *GSTP1 Ile<sup>105</sup>Val* polymorphism; but the pooled analysis suggested an overall statistically significant mild association between lung cancer and homozygosity or heterozygosity for the *Val<sup>105</sup>* allele ([Cote et al., 2009](#)).

A recent body of epidemiologic data suggests an inverse association between cruciferous vegetables/isothiocyanates intake and cancers of the colorectum, lung and breast; the studies also provide evidence that this protective effect is greater among individuals who possess the *GSTM1* or *T1* null genotype, who would be expected to accumulate higher levels of isothiocyanates at the target tissue level, a pre-requisite for their enzyme-inducing effects ([Seow et al., 2005](#)). The association between isothiocyanates and cancer, and its modification by *GSTM1* and *GSTT1* status, is most consistent for lung cancer and appears to be strongest among current smokers who possess the combined *GSTM1* and *GSTT1* null genotypes ([London et al., 2000a](#); [Spitz et al., 2000](#); [Zhao et al., 2001](#); [Brennan et al., 2005](#); [Seow et al., 2005](#)).

#### (c) *NAT1* and *NAT2* genes

The pooled and meta-analyses carried out on *NAT1* and *NAT2* polymorphisms and bladder cancer risk have consistently reported significantly increased risk for *NAT2* slow acetylators

([Dong et al., 2008](#); [Malats, 2008](#); see also Section 2.9). Data on *NAT1* fast acetylators are inconsistent, as are the studies suggesting an increased risk for *NAT2* rapid acetylator status. Additionally, genotypes for other genes, specially *GSTM1*, have also been implicated ([Vineis et al. 2001](#); [García-Closas et al., 2005](#); [Hein, 2006](#); [Sanderson et al., 2007](#); [Dong et al., 2008](#); [Malats, 2008](#)).

In a recent large study on tobacco-related lung cancer and upper aerodigestive cancers, the *NAT* genes, in particular *NAT\*10* haplotype, emerged from a set of 16 genes as involved in the risk ([McKay et al., 2008](#)). When more than one hundred single nucleotide polymorphisms for 31 genes involved in phase I or phase II metabolism or in antioxidant defence were investigated, only four of the previously reported polymorphisms of the *GSTP1*, *EPHX1* and superoxide dismutase *SOD2* genes and the *NAT1* fast acetylator phenotype remained significantly associated with risk of non-small cell lung cancer after correction for multiple testing ([Zienolddiny et al., 2008](#)).

In breast cancer, several recent meta-analyses of epidemiological studies have suggested increased risk among smokers with the *NAT2* slow acetylator genotype; such an association has been observed especially among long-term smokers and post-menopausal women ([Terry & Goodman, 2006](#); [Ambrosone et al., 2008](#); [Ochs-Balcom et al., 2007](#); [Baumgartner et al., 2009](#)).

In all, the role of the *NAT* gene polymorphisms in tobacco-related cancers, with the exceptions of increased risk of bladder cancer and possibly breast cancer in *NAT2* slow acetylators, remains largely open due to the incomplete understanding of phenotype-genotype relationships, and the interplay between these two genes and their polymorphisms ([Hein, 2002, 2006](#)).

#### (d) Others

Genes coding for *EPHX*, *UGT* and *SULT* enzymes, mainly but not exclusively involved in detoxification reactions, exhibit polymorphisms with numerous gene variants discovered

([Mackenzie et al., 1997](#); [London et al., 2000b](#); [Glatt et al., 2001](#); [Burchell, 2003](#)). Additional polymorphic genes studied for their significance in cancer susceptibility are the *NQO1* and *MPO* genes, with *NQO1* playing a dual role in the detoxification and activation of procarcinogens, and *MPO* converting lipophilic carcinogens into hydrophilic forms ([Nebert et al., 2002](#)). All these genes have been studied for their possible association with tobacco-related cancer risk to a varying extent and with variable outcomes ([London et al., 2000b](#); [Bamber et al., 2001](#); [Garte, 2001](#); [To-Figueras et al., 2001](#); [Tiemersma et al., 2002b](#); [Guillemette, 2003](#); [Wells et al., 2004](#); [Kiyohara et al., 2005](#); [Moreno et al., 2005](#); [Nagar & Remmel, 2006](#); [Gallagher et al., 2007](#)).

#### 4.2.3 Biomarkers of tobacco carcinogenesis and polymorphic genes of carcinogen metabolism

A myriad of studies have investigated association between various biomarkers of tobacco-related carcinogenesis and genetic variation of genes involved in carcinogen metabolism. For involvement in increased cancer susceptibility, a large variety of intermediate biomarkers have been studied, including PAH metabolites in urine, urinary mutagenicity, DNA and protein adducts, cytogenetic alterations, *HPRT* mutant lymphocytes, as well as somatic mutations of the tumour suppressor gene *TP53* and *KRAS* oncogene occurring in cancer tissue.

##### (a) PAH metabolites and mutagenicity in urine

##### (i) PAH metabolites in urine

Increased excretion of 1-hydroxypyrene in urine in association with the *GSTM1* null genotype has been reported in many studies on individuals with occupational or environmental exposure to PAHs ([Yang et al., 1999](#); [Alexandrie et al., 2000](#); [Lee et al., 2001](#); [Kuljucka-Rabb et al., 2002](#); [Kato et al., 2004](#)). The associations seen between *GSTT1* polymorphism and the



PAH metabolites are somewhat more variable. Similarly, the joint effect of *GSTM1* and *GSTT1* null genotypes, as well as the effects of some other genes of xenobiotic metabolism, such as *EPHX*, *CYP1A1*, *CYP1A2* and the aryl hydrocarbon receptor (*AhR*) gene have been either positive or negative ([Yang et al., 1999](#); [Alexandrie et al., 2000](#); [Lee et al., 2001](#); [Zhang et al., 2001](#); [Kuljukkka-Rabb et al., 2002](#); [Yang et al., 2003](#); [Chen et al., 2007](#); [Cocco et al., 2007](#); [Bin et al., 2008](#)).

Another PAH metabolite studied in this context is phenanthrene, the simplest PAHs with a bay region, a feature closely associated with carcinogenicity. A study quantified ratios of urinary products of metabolic activation (such as PhET) and detoxification (such as phenanthrols, HOPhe) of phenanthrene in 346 smokers, who were also genotyped for 11 polymorphisms in genes involved in PAHs metabolism, including the *CYP1A1* and *GSTM1* genes. A significant association between the presence of the *CYP1A1* Ile<sup>462</sup>Val polymorphism and high PhET/3-HOPhe ratios was found, particularly in combination with the *GSTM1* null polymorphism ([Hecht et al., 2006](#)).

Overall, the data on the influence of genetic variation in PAHs metabolism on the levels of the urinary metabolite biomarkers are variable, and currently inconclusive.

#### (ii) Urinary mutagenicity

One relatively early line of research investigated the relationship between urinary mutagenicity and genetic variation in activation or detoxification genes. These studies, however, have seldom been focused on smokers only but rather on other sources of exposure ([Pavanello & Clonfero, 2000](#)).

In some studies, *NAT2* slow acetylator genotype either alone or in combination with *GSTM1* null genotype has been associated with increased urinary mutagenicity in the *Salmonella* test in individuals with occupational, environmental or

medicinal PAH-related exposure, or in smokers ([Vineis & Malats, 1999](#); [Pavanello & Clonfero, 2000](#)). In another study, *CYP1A2* activity, but not *NAT2*, *GSTM1* or *GSTT1* genotypes influenced urinary mutagen excretion in smokers ([Pavanello et al., 2002](#)). A further study also suggested contribution of the *CYP1A2* gene variation to increased urinary mutagenicity in heavy smokers ([Pavanello et al., 2005](#)). Associations with variants of other xenobiotic-metabolising genes (such as *EPHX1*) have also been reported, with somewhat complex results ([Kuljukkka-Rabb et al., 2002](#)).

#### (b) DNA adducts

The relationship between the variants of polymorphic genes of carcinogen metabolism and tobacco smoke-related DNA adduct formation has been addressed in an abundant number of studies among smokers, occupationally exposed groups, and patients with smoking-related cancer. In addition, multiple *in vitro* studies on this relationship have been carried out ([Bartsch et al., 2000](#); [Pavanello & Clonfero, 2000](#); [Alexandrov et al., 2002](#); [Wiencke, 2002](#)).

The intensive efforts to study the relationship between *CYP1A1* and *GSTM1* gene polymorphism and the level of aromatic-hydrophobic/bulky PAH-DNA adducts in human lungs have so far provided little evidence for a role of a single metabolic genotype or their combinations on DNA adduct formation, with largely weak, non-significant or contradictory results. However, a trend of increasing adduct levels in subjects with the *CYP1A1*\*2-*GSTM1*\*0 genotype combination has been observed, which was reinforced when BPDE-DNA adducts were specifically assessed. These results suggest a gene-gene interaction, supported by biological data from other studies ([Bartsch et al., 2000](#); [Alexandrov et al., 2002](#); [Wiencke, 2002](#)). Such gene-gene interaction lends support to the increased risk for lung cancer found in carriers of these genotypes in Japanese, among whom the frequency of the



variant *CYP1A1* allele is much higher ([Bartsch et al., 2000](#); [Alexandrov et al., 2002](#)).

A wide selection of genes and genotypes included in the various studies have made it difficult to assess the overall role of the polymorphisms of *GSTM1* and other genes alone or in combination. Differences between the studies in the types of adducts determined, the various tissues, cell types and cancers studied, detection methods, variation in sources and types of exposure, sample size, gender differences, and sometimes poor knowledge regarding the alleles, genotypes and haplotypes under study also contribute to the large variability seen in these studies ([d'Errico et al., 1999](#); [Hemminki et al., 2001](#); [Alexandrov et al., 2002](#); [Wiencke, 2002](#)).

### (c) Cytogenetic biomarkers of genotoxicity

#### (i) Chromosome aberrations and sister chromatid exchanges

Early studies investigating whether homozygosity for the *GSTM1* null allele affects prevalence of cytogenetic changes in lymphocytes of smokers reported positive results ([Seidegård et al., 1990](#); [van Poppel et al., 1992](#); [Cheng et al., 1995](#)). Since then, studies have investigated the association between genetic polymorphisms of xenobiotic-metabolising genes and cytogenetic biomarkers in smokers and in some occupational groups ([Rebbeck, 1997](#); [Autrup, 2000](#); [Pavanello & Clonfero, 2000](#); [Norppa, 2003, 2004](#)).

Collectively, the reported findings are in support of increased susceptibility of smokers to chromosomal effects in association with *GSTM1* and *GSTT1* null variants deficient in detoxification of tobacco smoke carcinogens. Exposure to genotoxins generated from other environmental sources (e.g. polluted air, diet, endogenous sources such as reactive oxygen species) may contribute to the observed associations, and it is likely that other polymorphic metabolic genes such as *NAT2* may be involved ([Pavanello & Clonfero, 2000](#); [Norppa, 2001, 2003](#)).

#### (ii) Micronucleus induction

The relationship between formation of micronuclei and genetic polymorphisms of carcinogen metabolism has been addressed in a wide range of human population studies ([Norppa, 2003, 2004](#)). Induction of micronuclei in smokers may be little, if at all, affected by *GSTM1*, *GSTT1* or *NAT2* genotypes. In contrast, the *NAT1* rapid genotype appears to show an association with increased susceptibility to smoking-related micronuclei ([Norppa, 2004](#)).

A recent review evaluated more than seventy human studies on genetic polymorphisms and micronucleus frequency detected either in peripheral blood lymphocytes or exfoliated cells in populations exposed to various genotoxic agents. There were no significant genotype effects involved in micronucleus induction in smokers ([Iarmarcovai et al., 2008](#)). The relationship between genetic polymorphisms and micronucleus formation is complex, and is influenced to a variable extent by several genes of xenobiotic metabolism and DNA repair, as well as the variety of chromosomal alterations known to contribute to micronucleus formation ([Iarmarcovai et al., 2008](#)).

#### (iii) Chromosomal damage induced *in vitro*

The effects of genotypes or genotype combinations *in vitro* on the induction of various cytogenetic endpoints by tobacco-smoke carcinogens and their metabolites have been studied, initially focused on the *GSTM1* and *GSTT1* null genotypes ([Norppa, 2001, 2004](#)). In a study investigating NNK *in vitro*, lymphocytes from *GSTM1* null donors were more sensitive to induction of chromosomal aberrations and sister chromatid exchanges by NNK than lymphocytes from *GSTM1* positive donors ([Salama et al., 1999](#)).

(d) *Gene mutations*

(i) *HPRT mutant lymphocytes*

Associations between the frequencies of *HPRT* mutant T-lymphocytes in populations exposed to genotoxic agents, such as smokers, and the polymorphism of xenobiotic-metabolising genes have been studied. In the early studies, positive, weak, or negative associations were reported for *GSTM1* null genotype, and negative findings were published for *NAT2* slow acetylator genotype in occupationally exposed or non-exposed subjects (Rebbeck, 1997; Vineis & Malats, 1999). When healthy, non-smoking and occupationally non-exposed young adults were studied for *HPRT* mutant frequency and polymorphisms in *CYP1A1*, *GSTM1* and *NAT2* genes, none of these polymorphisms, analysed individually, were found to influence the *HPRT* mutant frequency (Davies *et al.*, 1999). A significant interaction between the *GSTM1* null genotype and *NAT2* slow acetylator was associated with higher mutant frequency, but no other genotype combinations (Davies *et al.*, 1999). Some later studies have reported variable associations between *HPRT* mutant frequency and polymorphisms for either individual genes (*GSTM1*, *GSTT1* or *EPHX1*) or some of the genotypes in combination among exposed (Viezzler *et al.*, 1999; Abdel-Rahman *et al.*, 2001, 2003).

(ii) *Mutations of the TP53 gene and other cancer-related genes*

Whether the frequency of somatic mutations detected in tumour tissue in cancer-related genes, primarily the *TP53* tumour suppressor gene and *KRAS* oncogene, may be modified by polymorphisms in carcinogen metabolizing genes was first investigated assessing the effects of the *GSTM1* genotype, alone or in combination with other genetic polymorphisms. Several, but not all, such studies showed significant association between *GSTM1* null genotype and either the frequency or type of *TP53* mutations in

smoking-induced lung cancer or other cancer type (Rebbeck, 1997; Vineis & Malats, 1999; Autrup, 2000). Fewer studies examined the association between *TP53* mutations and *GSTT1* polymorphism, and some results suggested the involvement of both null genotypes (Vineis & Malats, 1999; Autrup, 2000).

In smokers with non-small cell lung cancer, the risk of mutation was found to be the highest among the homozygous carriers of the *CYP1A1* rare allele *CYP1A1 MspI* (Ile<sup>462</sup>Val) who also exhibited the *GSTM1* null genotype (Kawajiri *et al.*, 1996). Similarly, positive associations between *K-RAS* mutations and homozygosity for the *CYP1A1* rare allele were observed; the risk of mutation was enhanced when the *CYP1A1* susceptible genotype was combined with *GSTM1* null genotype (Kawajiri *et al.*, 1996). In another study, also carried out in a Japanese study population, *K-RAS* mutations occurred with greater frequency in lung adenocarcinoma smoking patients and of the *GSTM1* null genotype as compared with the *GSTM1* positive genotype (Noda *et al.*, 2004).

Many of the studies that assessed *NAT2* acetylator genotypes have found non-significant associations with the frequency or type of *TP53* mutation in bladder, lung, or other cancers (Vineis & Malats, 1999; Autrup, 2000). A study on bladder cancer did not find an overall association between *TP53* mutation frequency and *GSTM1*, *GSTT1*, *GSTP1* or *NAT2* genotypes. However, among patients with *TP53* mutations, transversion mutations were more frequent in those with *GSTM1* null genotype as compared to those with *GSTM1* positive genotype; no significant associations were found for the *NAT2* gene (Ryk *et al.*, 2005).

In rectal cancer, overall negative results for an association between *TP53* or *KRAS* mutations and *GSTM1* and *NAT2* polymorphisms among smokers and non-smokers exposed to tobacco smoke were found (Curtin *et al.*, 2009). An interaction of second-hand tobacco smoke and *NAT2*

was found in *TP53* mutation positive tumours but not in smokers ([Curtin et al., 2009](#)). Earlier, an increased risk of *TP53* transversion mutations among *GSTM1* positive individuals who smoked cigarettes was found in colon cancer ([Slattery et al., 2002](#)).

A statistically significant association was observed between the *GSTT1* null genotype and *TP53* mutation status of breast tumour in one study ([Gudmundsdottir et al., 2001](#)), while in another larger study none of the genotypes for *CYP1B1*, *GSTM1*, *GSTT1* and *GSTP1* genes alone were associated with somatic *TP53* mutations ([Van Emburgh et al., 2008](#)).

In summary, data from various cancer types on the association between genetic polymorphisms of carcinogen-metabolizing genes and somatic mutations of the *TP53* and *K-RAS* genes vary widely and do not permit to conclude ([Rebbeck, 1997](#); [Vineis & Malats, 1999](#); [Autrup, 2000](#)).

### 4.3 Site-specific mechanisms of carcinogenicity of tobacco smoke

#### 4.3.1 Sites with sufficient evidence of carcinogenicity of tobacco smoking

##### (a) Lung

The conceptual model presented in Section 4.1 (Fig. 4.1) depicts the main mechanistic steps by which cigarette smoke causes cancer. Smokers inhale into their lungs carcinogens which, either directly or after metabolism, covalently bind to DNA, forming DNA adducts (see Section 4.1, Fig. 4.3). Tobacco smoke contains multiple strong lung carcinogens such as NNN, NNK, PAHs, 1,3-butadiene and cadmium. Levels of tobacco smoke-related DNA adducts, mainly <sup>32</sup>P-postlabelled aromatic-hydrophobic/PAH-related bulky DNA adducts, in the lung are higher in smokers than in non-smokers ([Phillips, 2002](#); [IARC, 2004a](#); [Hecht, 2008](#)). Higher levels

of DNA adducts have further been linked to increased risk for cancer in pooled and meta-analyses ([IARC, 2004a](#); [Veglia et al., 2008](#)).

Mutations in *TP53* and *K-RAS* genes, two central genes of human carcinogenesis, are more frequently mutated in smokers' lung cancer as compared to lung cancer from non-smokers ([DeMarini, 2004](#); [IARC, 2004a](#); [Lea et al., 2007](#); [Ding et al., 2008](#); see Section 4.1.3). In particular, *TP53* but also to some extent *K-RAS* mutations found in smoking-associated lung tumours exhibit mutational specificity that is consistent with the pattern produced by PAH diol epoxides in experimental studies and different from that observed in non-smokers' lung cancer ([Pfeifer et al., 2002](#); [DeMarini, 2004](#); [IARC, 2004a](#); [Le Calvez et al., 2005](#); Section 4.1.3). Keeping with such exposure-specific mutation profile, lung cancer in non-smokers exposed to second-hand tobacco smoke shows mutational similarity to smokers' lung cancer, although less data are available ([Husgafvel-Pursiainen, 2004](#); [IARC, 2004a](#); [Le Calvez et al., 2005](#); [Subramanian & Govindan, 2008](#)). The different pathways of lung carcinogenesis for smokers and non-smokers are likely to involve somatic mutations and other genetic alterations in a larger set of genes that are critical in controlling normal cellular growth via signal transduction ([Bode & Dong, 2005](#); [Lea et al., 2007](#); [Ding et al., 2008](#)).

Smoking-related lung carcinogenesis also involves a multitude of other alterations influencing the complex pathogenic pathways involved in lung cancer development, such as increased inflammation, aberrant apoptosis, increased angiogenesis, tumour progression and tumour metastasis ([Wolff et al., 1998](#); [Heeschen et al., 2001](#); [Schuller, 2002](#); [West et al., 2003](#); [Smith et al., 2006](#); [Lee et al., 2008b](#); Section 4.1.5). Continued exposure to toxicants, genotoxins, carcinogens, co-carcinogens and tumour promoters present in tobacco smoke has major effects on biological processes at all steps of multistep tumourigenesis of human lung ([Hecht,](#)

2003, 2008; Section 4.1). For example, nicotine in tobacco smoke is currently not described as a full carcinogen, but it exerts its biological effects via binding to nicotinic and other cellular receptors and likely enhances cell transformation and carcinogenicity through mechanisms not yet defined (Heeschen *et al.*, 2001; West *et al.*, 2003).

Numerous studies have provided evidence that the human genome may contain one or several loci that confer susceptibility to lung cancer. There are low-penetrance genes involved in the metabolism of tobacco smoke carcinogens, DNA repair and cell cycle control that may influence individual susceptibility to lung cancer (Spitz *et al.*, 2006). The role of the polymorphisms of these various classes of genes in lung carcinogenesis requires a systematic evaluation of the genetic evidence with stringent criteria (Ioannidis, 2008; Risch & Plass, 2008; Vineis *et al.*, 2009; Sections 4.1 and 4.2). Recently, genome-wide association studies have identified a susceptibility locus at chromosome 15q25.1 (Amos *et al.*, 2008; Hung *et al.*, 2008; Thorgeirsson *et al.*, 2008). The identity or function of the gene is not yet known, nor is the mechanism through which it may predispose to lung cancer. It is however likely that lung cancer susceptibility is related to the nicotine receptor gene residing at 15q25.1, and there is some evidence suggesting that it may be related to increased uptake of nicotine and NNK per cigarette (Le Marchand *et al.*, 2008).

In addition to genetic alterations, a growing body of evidence shows that epigenetic mechanisms, such as aberrant DNA methylation, histone modifications and RNA-mediated gene silencing are involved in cancer development (Jones & Baylin, 2007; Cortez & Jones, 2008). In lung carcinogenesis, gene promoter-associated (CpG island-specific) hypermethylation is an early and frequent event causing transcriptional inactivation of genes involved in regulation of cellular growth and differentiation (Belinsky, 2004). For example, several studies have indicated that the tumour suppressor gene *p16*

(*p16<sup>INK4a/CDKN2A</sup>*), a cell cycle regulator, is among the genes most frequently inactivated by aberrant methylation in lung cancer from smokers (Belinsky, 2004), with differences seen between smokers and never-smokers (Toyooka *et al.*, 2006). Significant associations have been established between smoking and promoter hypermethylation of tumour suppressor genes in lung tumours from smokers, and in plasma, serum or sputum DNA from cancer-free smokers (Belinsky, 2004; Belinsky *et al.*, 2005, 2006; Toyooka *et al.*, 2006).

#### (b) Oral cavity

PAHs can be carcinogenic at the site of application, which could include the human oral cavity. DMBA, a highly carcinogenic PAH not present in tobacco or tobacco smoke, is a standard model compound for induction of oral tumours in the hamster cheek pouch; less is known about the effects on the oral cavity of PAHs that do occur in tobacco products (Shklar, 1972; Rao, 1984; Vairaktaris *et al.*, 2008). A mixture of NNN and NNK induced oral tumours in rats when applied locally (Hecht *et al.*, 1986), and DNA adduct formation from NNN, NNK and NNAL has been observed in the rat oral cavity (Zhang *et al.*, 2009a, b). HPB-releasing DNA adducts from NNK and/or NNN have been reported in exfoliated oral cells from smokers and smokeless tobacco users (Heling *et al.*, 2008) and HPB-releasing haemoglobin adducts are elevated in smokeless tobacco users (IARC, 2007a). Unidentified DNA adduct levels are consistently elevated in oral cells and tissues from smokers compared to non-smokers (IARC, 2004a). Mutations in the *TP53* gene have been observed in oral tumours from smokers and smokeless tobacco users (IARC, 2006b, 2007a; Warnakulasuriya & Ralhan, 2007). Tobacco-associated genetic mutations including micronuclei, gene mutations, DNA polymorphisms, and chromosomal abnormalities have been reported in studies of buccal cells from smokers and smokeless tobacco users (Proia *et al.*, 2006). The use of lime by betel quid chewers is associated



with enhanced oxidative damage that could play a role in inflammation or tumour promotion ([IARC, 2004b](#)).

#### (c) *Larynx and nasopharynx*

Hamsters exposed to cigarette smoke by inhalation consistently developed benign and malignant tumours of the larynx; tumours were produced by inhalation of the particulate phase, but not the gas phase of cigarette smoke ([IARC, 1986](#)). In related studies in which hamsters were treated with DMBA by intratracheal instillation followed by exposure to cigarette smoke, a significantly higher incidence of laryngeal tumours was observed than in hamsters exposed only to cigarette smoke or to DMBA ([IARC, 1986](#)). Collectively, these results indicate an initiation-promotion mechanism for the production of laryngeal tumours, and are consistent with the results of experiments in which tobacco smoke condensate is applied to mouse skin ([IARC, 1986](#)). The combined data implicate PAHs and tumour promoters in tobacco smoke as potential etiological agents for cancer of the larynx in hamsters. Levels of DNA adducts measured by non-specific methods were higher in larynx tissue from smokers than from non-smokers ([IARC, 2004a](#)). Analyses of mutations in the *TP53* gene from tumours of the larynx in smokers show a pattern similar to that observed in lung tumours, and both are consistent with the pattern produced by PAH diol epoxides ([IARC, 2006b](#)). The available data are consistent with the conceptual framework illustrated in Fig. 4.1 ([Szyfter et al., 1999](#)).

Formaldehyde, a constituent of cigarette smoke, causes nasopharyngeal cancer in humans ([IARC, 2006a](#)). A recent study demonstrates a 10-fold higher level of the formaldehyde-DNA adduct *N*<sup>6</sup>-hydroxymethyldeoxyadenosine in leukocytes of smokers compared to non-smokers, suggesting its possible involvement in nasopharyngeal cancer in smokers ([Wang et al., 2009](#)). Acetaldehyde, another carcinogenic constituent of tobacco smoke, which also

forms genotoxic adducts (Section 4.1), may also contribute to the development of these forms of head and neck cancer.

#### (d) *Oesophagus*

Nitrosamines are probably the most effective oesophageal carcinogens known, with particularly strong activity in the rat ([Lijinsky, 1992](#)). NNN and NDEA are both present in cigarette smoke, and levels of NNN greatly exceed those of NDEA ([IARC, 2004a](#)). NNN is also present in considerable quantities in smokeless tobacco and betel quid containing tobacco ([IARC, 2004a, 2007a](#)). Thus, NNN is a likely candidate as a causative agent for esophageal cancer in smokers, smokeless tobacco users, and chewers of betel-quid with tobacco. While considerable mechanistic data are available from studies of NNN in laboratory animals ([Hecht, 1998](#); [Wong et al., 2005](#); [Lao et al., 2007](#); [Zhang et al., 2009a](#)), there are little comparable data in humans.

Increased acetaldehyde production derived both from tobacco smoke and from microbial alcohol oxidation may play a role in the synergistic carcinogenic action of alcohol and smoking on oesophagus, as well as on other upper aerodigestive locations ([Homann et al., 2000](#); [Salaspuro & Salaspuro, 2004](#); [Lee et al., 2007a](#)).

#### (e) *Stomach*

Hypermethylation of the E-cadherin 1 gene (*CDH1*) was observed preferentially in gastric tumours from smokers rather than non-smokers ([Poplawski et al., 2008](#)). *CDH1* can act as a tumour-suppressor gene, preventing cells from growing and dividing in an uncontrolled way to form a cancerous tumour. Because the protein encoded by this gene helps cells stick together, altered regulation may lead to metastasis.

[Boccia et al. \(2007\)](#) found an increased risk for stomach cancer among smokers who had the *SULT1A1 His* genotype, and [Lee et al. \(2006\)](#) found an increased risk for those who had the *m2* allelic variant of *CYP1A1*. A nested case-control



study found that smokers had an increased risk of gastric cancer if they carried at least one variant allele A in Ex7+129 C > A (*Thr<sup>461</sup>Asn, m4*) of *CYP1A1* ([Agudo et al., 2006](#)). Stomach cancer tissue from smokers had higher levels of stable DNA adducts than did those from non-smokers; however, the number of non-smokers was quite small ([Dyke et al., 1992](#)).

#### (f) *Pancreas*

NNK and its metabolite NNAL are the only pancreatic carcinogens known to be present in tobacco and tobacco smoke. NNK was detected in the pancreatic juice of 15 of 18 samples from smokers, at levels significantly higher than in non-smokers; NNAL and NNN were also detected in some samples ([Prokopczyk et al., 2002](#)). DNA adducts of NNK and NNAL were present in pancreatic tissue of rats treated with these nitrosamines ([Zhang et al., 2009b](#)), but were not detected in most human pancreatic tissue samples ([Prokopczyk et al., 2005](#)).

#### (g) *Colorectum*

Tobacco smoke contains heterocyclic amines, such as 2-amino-1-methyl-6-phenylimidazo[4,5,6]pyridine (PhIP), which are intestinal carcinogens in rats and mutate the adenomatous polyposis coli (*Apc*) gene in mice ([Møllersen et al., 2004](#)). The *APC* gene is frequently mutated and has altered expression in human colon cancer ([Samowitz et al., 2007](#); [Samowitz, 2008](#)). A recent model of colon cancer by [Sweeney et al. \(2009\)](#) suggests that this disease can develop via at least three independent mechanistic pathways. One pathway is initiated by methylation of *MINT* (methylation in tumour) markers that proceeds down a pathway predisposing to microsatellite instability, followed by methylation of the mismatch repair gene mutL homologue 1 (*MHL1*) and the tumour-suppressor gene *TP16*, followed by mutation in *BRAF* (a homologue of a viral raf oncogen). A second independent pathway is initiated with a mutation in the *APC*

gene, followed by a mutation in the *TP53* gene. A third independent pathway involves only *KRAS2* mutations. One study found BPDE-DNA adducts at a higher frequency in colon DNA from smokers than from non-smokers ([Alexandrov et al., 1996](#)). Mutations or epigenetic changes in some or all of these genes have been found in smoking-associated colon or colorectal tumours.

Microsatellite instability, which is the expansion or contraction of short nucleotide repeats, occurs in approximately 10–15% of sporadic colorectal cancer, and is usually associated with smoking and hypermethylation of the promoter of the mismatch repair gene *MLH1* ([Samowitz, 2008](#)). Smoking-associated colorectal tumours also have high frequencies of methylation at CpG islands ([Samowitz, 2008](#)).

In a case-control study of colorectal cancer, [Kasahara et al. \(2008\)](#) found that the genetic polymorphism *APEX1/APE1* (apurinic/apyrimidinic endonuclease-1) Asp<sup>148</sup>Glu, which is a gene involved in DNA repair, was associated with risk for colorectal cancer among smokers but not non-smokers. Other studies have also found associations between polymorphisms in the DNA repair genes *XRCC1* and smoking and risk for colorectal cancer ([Stern et al., 2007](#); [Campbell et al., 2009](#)).

#### (h) *Liver*

Tobacco smoke contains liver carcinogens such as furan and certain nitrosamines. Liver tumours exhibit increased expression of *C-MYC*, *P16<sup>INK4A</sup>*, epidermal growth factor receptor (*EGFR*), telomerase, transforming growth factor- $\alpha$  (*TGF- $\alpha$* ), insulin-like growth factor-2 (*IGF-2*) and *RAF* oncogene ([Abou-Alfa, 2006](#)). Smokers show altered expression of some of these genes or of genes in the same or similar pathways ([Sen et al., 2007](#)). A genome-wide association study found that SNP rs1447295 in the 8q24 chromosome was positively associated with liver cancer among ever-smokers ([Park et al., 2008](#)). Thus, tobacco smoke appears to have epigenetic

effects on the liver that may contribute to hepatocellular carcinoma.

(i) *Urinary bladder*

Tobacco smoke contains aromatic amines such as 4-aminobiphenyl and 2-naphthylamine, which are human bladder carcinogens (see [IARC, 2012a](#)). In bladder tumours, smoking was associated with a more than twofold increase risk of methylation of the promoter region of the *PI6<sup>INK4A</sup>* gene and of the soluble Frizzled receptor protein (*SFRP*) gene ([Marsit et al., 2006](#)). In addition, [Tang et al. \(2009\)](#) suggested that epigenetic silencing of *Wnt* antagonists through hypermethylation may play a role in smoking-related invasive bladder cancer ([Tang et al., 2009](#)). SNP rs6983267 of the 8q24 chromosome was inversely associated with bladder cancer among ever-smokers ([Park et al., 2008](#)). Smokers generally have mutagenic urine and smoking is associated with specific cytogenetic changes and DNA breaks in bladder tumours ([DeMarini, 2004](#)). Smoking-associated stable DNA adducts have been found in bladder tissue or exfoliated urothelial cells, supporting a role for DNA damage in smoking-associated bladder cancer ([Phillips, 2002](#)).

(j) *Cervix*

The cervical mucus of smokers is more mutagenic than that of non-smokers, and cervical epithelia of smokers have higher frequencies of micronuclei than those of non-smokers ([DeMarini, 2004](#)). Several studies have found increased levels of DNA adducts in cervical tissue from smokers relative to non-smokers, suggesting a role for smoking-associated DNA damage in cervical cancer ([Phillips, 2002](#)).

(k) *Ovary*

It has been observed that the inverse associations reported for serous and endometrioid tumours with respect to parity and oral contraceptives did not hold for the mucinous tumours.

Based on these observations, [Risch et al. \(1996\)](#) suggested that mucinous ovarian tumours may be etiologically unrelated to the other types of epithelial tumours. Whereas mucinous elements such as gastric or intestinal type glands may be seen in mature teratomas, a form of germ cell neoplasia, overall mucinous tumours are classified as surface epithelial tumours because transitions among the subtypes may be observed. The major difference between mucinous and serous tumours is their biologic behaviour. Mucinous carcinomas of the ovary are slow growing tumours that appear to develop from their benign counterparts. The fact that the transitions between the benign, borderline, and malignant form of the disease can be seen in the same tumour suggests that over time, there is a progression from benign to malignant ([Riopel et al., 1999](#)). *K-ras* mutational analysis, for example, demonstrates a heterogeneous distribution of the mutation within different parts of the same neoplasm, suggesting that acquisition of the *K-ras* mutation occurs in malignant transformation ([Mandai et al., 1998](#)). Serous carcinomas seem to develop de novo rather than from a benign pre-existing lesion; alternatively, the rate of progression is rapid and the precursor lesion is obliterated before the detection of the tumour. In some data, current smoking is associated with a shorter interval to detection of mucinous than non-mucinous tumours. Because the mucinous tumour is slow growing, smoking could contribute to the malignant progression of the adenoma-carcinoma sequence, as the benign form of the tumour may have been present for some time.

(l) *Leukaemia*

Tobacco smoke contains known leukaemogens such as benzene, 1,3-butadiene and formaldehyde ([IARC, 2012a](#)). The mechanisms of leukaemogenesis are currently not well understood. Data indicate that leukaemogenic agents, such as benzene, cause toxicity to the

haematopoietic system, as well as genotoxicity at low levels, and that genetic polymorphisms may be involved in these processes ([Aksoy, 1989](#); [Lan et al., 2004](#); [Garte et al., 2008](#); [Hosgood et al., 2009](#); [Lau et al., 2009](#); [Rappaport et al., 2009](#)). Recent studies suggest the importance in carcinogen-related leukaemogenesis of damage to haematopoietic stem/progenitor cells circulating in the peripheral blood, or, alternatively, damage to primitive pluripotent progenitor cells present in other tissues ([Zhang et al., 2009c](#)). In these two models, damaged stem/progenitor cells would then travel to the bone marrow and become initiated leukaemic stem cells. Mechanisms considered central in these models are: disruption of bone marrow DNA, through e.g. formation of DNA adducts, DNA-protein crosslinks, the action of free radicals or active states of oxygen; intercalation of metals within the DNA structure; or inhibition of enzymes involved in cell division ([Zhang et al., 2007, 2009c](#)).

#### 4.3.2 Sites with limited evidence of carcinogenicity or evidence suggesting lack of carcinogenicity

##### (a) Breast

##### (i) Carcinogenic pathway

Carcinogens found in tobacco smoke pass through the alveolar membrane and into the blood stream, by means of which they can be transported to the breast via plasma lipoproteins ([Yamasaki & Ames, 1977](#); [Shu & Bymun, 1983](#); [Plant et al., 1985](#)). Tobacco smoke contains known rodent mammary carcinogens, including PAHs and aromatic amines ([IARC, 1986, 2004a](#); [el-Bayoumy, 1992](#); [Ambrosone & Shields, 1999](#); [Ambrosone, 2001](#); [Hoffmann et al., 2001](#)) which, due to their lipophilicity, can be stored in breast adipose tissue ([Obana et al., 1981](#); [Morris & Seifter, 1992](#)) and then metabolized and activated by human mammary epithelial cells ([MacNicoll et al., 1980](#)). Tobacco smoke constituents reach

the breast as demonstrated by the detection of cotinine in breast fluid ([Petrakis et al., 1978](#)). There is evidence suggesting the presence of mutagenic arylamines ([Thompson et al., 2002](#)) and PAHs ([Zanieri et al., 2007](#)) in human breast milk. Cigarette smoke condensate has been shown to transform normal human breast epithelial cells *in vitro* ([Narayan et al., 2004](#)), perhaps by blocking long-patch base excision repair ([Kundu et al., 2007](#)). Transformation and cytogenetic effects have been observed in human mammary epithelial cells after exposure to chemical carcinogens such as PAHs or arylamine ([Mane et al., 1990](#); [Eldridge et al., 1992](#); [Calaf & Russo, 1993](#)).

The formation of specific adducts from PAHs and aromatic amines has been observed in human breast epithelial cells *in vitro*, and unspecified-DNA adducts have been found in exfoliated ductal epithelial cells in human breast milk ([Gorlewska-Roberts et al., 2002](#); [Thompson et al., 2002](#)).

Mutations in the *TP53* tumour suppressor gene have been found in 15–30% of breast cancers ([Goldman & Shields, 1998](#); [Olivier & Hainaut, 2001](#)). An increased prevalence and altered spectrum of *TP53* mutations in breast tumours have been observed among current smokers compared with never smokers ([Conway et al., 2002](#)). The breast tumours with the most pronounced smoking-related mutational pattern (for example, a greater number of G:C→T:A transversions) were from women who had smoked for more than 20 years, although total *TP53* mutations were not associated with smoking duration ([Conway et al., 2002](#)). This increased frequency of G to T transversions in smokers versus non-smokers is also observed in the IARC *TP53* database ([IARC, 2006b](#); [Van Emburgh et al., 2008](#)).

Recent meta-analyses of epidemiological studies tend to show positive associations of breast cancer with long-term smoking among *NAT2* slow acetylators, especially among post-menopausal women (who are more likely than pre-menopausal women to be very long-term

smokers). [Firozi et al. \(2002\)](#) showed that breast tissue from NAT2 slow acetylators had significantly higher levels of the diagonal radioactive zone (smoking-related) DNA adduct pattern than that from fast acetylators.

High rates of breast cancer in women exposed to ionizing radiation during adolescence (aged 10–19 years at exposure) ([Tokunaga et al., 1987](#)) suggested that the adolescent breast may also be sensitive to the DNA-damaging effects of other exposures. This might also be true for the genotoxic compounds contained in tobacco smoke. Although some studies have supported such association, the results have been sparse and mixed. In addition, it is difficult to separate the effects of early life exposure to tobacco and smoking duration ([Terry & Rohan, 2002](#)).

Early age at first full-term pregnancy has been associated with reduced breast cancer risk ([Kelsey et al., 1993](#)), hypothetically due to terminal differentiation of the breast epithelium that occurs late in the first trimester. It has been suggested that in the early stages of pregnancy, when growth-promoting hormone levels are high, but before terminal differentiation ([Montelongo et al., 1992](#)), the breast may be particularly susceptible to the cancer-promoting chemicals in tobacco smoke. Several epidemiological studies compared measures of smoking before and after a first full-term pregnancy. Although suggestive, the data did not consistently show an increased risk for breast cancer among women who smoked before a first full-term pregnancy ([Adami et al., 1988](#); [Hunter et al., 1997](#); [Band et al., 2002](#); [Egan et al., 2003](#); [Gram et al., 2005](#); [Li et al., 2005](#); [Olson et al., 2005](#); [Cui et al., 2006](#)). Smoking was associated with a 50% increased risk among women with slow NAT2 acetylation genotype ([Egan et al., 2003](#)). Overall, studies of risk in association with the timing of smoking relative to a first pregnancy are inconclusive; nevertheless, the breast tissue appears to have a greater susceptibility to the carcinogenic chemicals in tobacco smoke

before compared to after terminal differentiation of breast epithelium.

## (ii) *Estrogenic pathway*

The “anti-estrogenic” mechanism through which tobacco smoking may inhibit breast cancer progression is unclear. Estrogen is a known risk factor for breast cancer and several hypotheses have been proposed: earlier age at menopause among smokers, a reduction in the gastrointestinal absorption or distribution of estrogen, enhanced metabolism of estradiol to inactive catechol estrogens, increased binding of estrogens by serum sex hormone-binding globulin, lowered levels of estrogen derived from adipose tissue ([Baron, 1984](#); [Baron et al., 1990](#); [Terry & Rohan, 2002](#)). Several studies of cigarette smoking and mammographically-defined breast density showed lower measures of breast density in current smokers than in non-smokers ([Sala et al., 2000](#); [Vachon et al., 2000](#); [Warwick et al., 2003](#); [Jeffreys et al., 2004](#); [Modugno et al., 2006](#); [Bremnes et al., 2007](#); [Butler et al., 2008](#)). Since exposure to estrogen has been associated positively with breast density, a strong risk factor for breast cancer ([McCormack & dos Santos Silva, 2006](#)), the results of these studies are consistent with an anti-estrogenic effect of cigarette smoking. Although smokers and non-smokers may have the same concentrations of estrogens overall, it may be the type rather than the absolute levels of circulating estrogens that is important. Smokers might have a lower concentration of more biologically active estrogens, primarily 16- $\alpha$ -hydroxyestrone (16 $\alpha$ -OHE1) ([Michnovicz et al., 1986, 1988](#); [Berta et al., 1992](#); [Berstein et al., 2000](#); [Terry et al., 2002b](#)). Estrogen can be metabolized along three pathways, to 16 $\alpha$ -OHE1 or to 2-OHE1 or to 4-OHE1. 16 $\alpha$ -OHE1 and 4-OHE1 have been observed to increase mammary epithelial cell proliferation rates in experimental studies ([Schütze et al., 1993, 1994](#); [IARC, 2007c](#)). In contrast, 2-OHE1 might decrease epithelial cell proliferation rates ([Bradlow et al., 1996](#);



[Muti et al., 2000](#)). If cigarette smoking increases estradiol 2-hydroxylation, as has been suggested ([Michnovicz et al., 1986](#)), thereby increasing the ratio of 2-OHE1:16- $\alpha$ -OHE1, an inverse association between smoking and breast cancer risk might be observed. However, only one study has directly examined 2-hydroxylation in relation to cigarette smoking ([Michnovicz et al., 1986](#)). Using injected radiolabelled estradiol, a 50% increased estradiol 2-hydroxylation was found in premenopausal women who smoked at least 15 cigarettes/day compared with non-smokers. Two studies of urinary estrogens found increased excretion of 2-OHE1 and decreased excretion of estriol among smokers ([Michnovicz et al., 1988](#); [Berstein et al., 2000](#)), which may also support the hypothesis that smoking decreases the formation of active estrogen metabolites along the 16 $\alpha$ -hydroxylation pathway. However, the ratio of urinary 2-OHE1:16 $\alpha$ -OHE1 was not related to breast cancer risk in the one case-control study that examined the association ([Ursin et al., 1999](#)). The 4-hydroxylation of estrogens is catalysed by CYP1B1, which is induced by tobacco smoke ([Nebert et al., 2004](#)). This has been postulated as an additional pathway that could lead to formation of DNA adducts via catechol estrogen-quinones ([Gaikwad et al., 2008](#)) and oxidative/DNA damage via redox-cycling ([Zhu & Conney, 1998](#)). The ratio of 2-OHE1:4-OHE1 has been studied in relation to breast cancer risk and smoking in one study ([Berstein et al., 2000](#)). Smokers carrying the CYP1B1 Val allele [associated with high hydroxylation activity] had a significantly higher risk for breast cancer compared to never smokers with the Leu/Leu [wildtype] genotype ([Saintot et al., 2003](#)).

#### (b) Endometrium

Exogenous estrogens unopposed by progesterone have been shown to increase the risk for endometrial cancer through increased mitotic activity of endometrial cells, increased number of DNA replication errors, and somatic mutations

resulting in the malignant phenotype ([IARC, 2007c, 2012c](#)). Hence, factors associated with estrogen absorption or metabolism may alter the risk of this malignancy. Several investigators have hypothesized that cigarette smoking might have anti-estrogenic effects, and through this mechanism reduce the risk of endometrial cancer ([Baron, 1984](#); [Baron et al., 1990](#); [Terry et al., 2002b, 2004a](#)).

Whether mediated through changes in the amount of adipose tissue, altered age at menopause, or anti-estrogenic effects, blood hormone concentrations might be an important link between smoking and the reduced risk of endometrial cancer observed in most epidemiological studies. The estrogens that have typically been studied in relation to cigarette smoking include estrone, sex hormone binding globulin (SHBG)-bound estradiol, and estriol. Blood concentrations of androgens, typically androstenedione and dehydroepiandrosterone sulfate (DHEAS), have also been studied, because these are biological precursors of estrone. Studies that have examined blood concentrations of SHBG are less common, and studies of unbound (free) estradiol are scarce.

Studies of cigarette smoking and blood hormone concentrations have been conducted mostly among post-menopausal women who were not taking HRT. Of these studies, nine examined serum ([Friedman et al., 1987](#); [Cauley et al., 1989](#); [Slemenda et al., 1989](#); [Schlemmer et al., 1990](#); [Cassidenti et al., 1992](#); [Austin et al., 1993](#); [Law et al., 1997](#)) or plasma ([Khaw et al., 1988](#); [Longcope & Johnston, 1988](#)) estrone, ten examined serum ([Friedman et al., 1987](#); [Cauley et al., 1989](#); [Slemenda et al., 1989](#); [Schlemmer et al., 1990](#); [Key et al., 1991](#); [Cassidenti et al., 1992](#); [Austin et al., 1993](#); [Law et al., 1997](#)) or plasma ([Khaw et al., 1988](#); [Longcope & Johnston, 1988](#)) estradiol, and two examined serum ([Cassidenti et al., 1992](#)) or plasma ([Longcope & Johnston, 1988](#)) free estradiol. These studies consistently showed little or no association between smoking



and blood estrogen concentrations among post-menopausal women who were not taking hormone replacement therapy. Among pre-menopausal women, three studies ([Longcope & Johnston, 1988](#); [Key et al., 1991](#); [Berta et al., 1992](#)) found no clear association between cigarette smoking and estrogen concentrations. Studies that adjusted hormone measurements for the effects of BMI (and other covariates) showed similar results to those that did not, suggesting that BMI is not a strong confounder of this association.

In two studies the association between cigarette smoking and blood estrogen concentrations after randomization of women to groups receiving either estradiol or placebo were examined ([Jensen & Christiansen, 1988](#); [Cassidenti et al., 1990](#)). In a small study of 25 post-menopausal women, unbound estradiol was significantly lower among smokers than non-smokers both at baseline and shortly after taking micronized estradiol orally ([Cassidenti et al., 1990](#)). No important differences were observed between smokers and non-smokers in serum concentrations of either estrone or bound estradiol. In contrast, in a study in which 110 post-menopausal women were randomized to take hormones (either orally or percutaneously) or a placebo ([Jensen & Christiansen, 1988](#)), smokers had lower concentrations of both estrone and bound estradiol than non-smokers after oral (but not percutaneous) hormone treatment for at least one year (concentrations of free estrogens were not examined). These results indicate that smoking might affect the absorption or metabolism of hormones used in replacement therapy.

Of the five studies that have examined the association between cigarette smoking and serum ([Lapidus et al., 1986](#); [Cassidenti et al., 1992](#); [Law et al., 1997](#)) or plasma ([Khaw et al., 1988](#); [Longcope & Johnston, 1988](#)) SHBG, none found any clear association. However, one of these studies ([Khaw et al., 1988](#)) found an inverse association between smoking and the ratio of bound estradiol to SHBG, a measure of estrogen

activity. In this context, [Cassidenti et al. \(1990\)](#) found unbound (but not SHBG-bound) estradiol was significantly lower among smokers than non-smokers both at baseline and after taking oral estradiol, suggesting an increased SHBG-binding capacity in the women who smoked.

In post-menopausal women, androgens are the major source of estrone, converted through aromatization in fat deposits. Thus, adiposity is positively correlated with estrogen concentrations in post-menopausal women. Of the nine studies in which blood concentrations of androstenedione were examined in smokers ([Friedman et al., 1987](#); [Khaw et al., 1988](#); [Longcope & Johnston, 1988](#); [Cauley et al., 1989](#); [Slemenda et al., 1989](#); [Schlemmer et al., 1990](#); [Cassidenti et al., 1992](#); [Austin et al., 1993](#); [Law et al., 1997](#)), higher circulating concentrations were found among current than among never or former smokers in all studies. However, there was no clear variation in blood estrone concentrations by smoking status, suggesting a reduced conversion of androstenedione to estrone among smokers. Of the five studies where cigarette smoking and DHEAS concentrations were examined, three ([Khaw et al., 1988](#); [Cassidenti et al., 1992](#); [Law et al., 1997](#)) found increased blood concentrations among current smokers, one ([Friedman et al., 1987](#)) found also an increase that was not statistically significant, whereas another ([Key et al., 1991](#)) found no clear differences according to smoking status.

Cigarette smoking and urinary estrogen concentrations have been examined in seven studies ([MacMahon et al., 1982](#); [Michnovicz et al., 1986](#); [Trichopoulos et al., 1987](#); [Michnovicz et al., 1988](#); [Berta et al., 1992](#); [Key et al., 1996](#); [Berstein et al., 2000](#)). Of these, three found no major differences according to smoking status ([Trichopoulos et al., 1987](#); [Michnovicz et al., 1988](#); [Berta et al., 1992](#)). The remaining four studies all showed lower urinary estriol concentrations among smokers than among non-smokers, but mixed results for urinary estrone and estradiol.

Two of these studies ([Michnovicz et al., 1988](#); [Berstein et al., 2000](#)) showed higher concentrations of 2-hydroxyestrone among smokers, than non-smokers but only after estrogen treatment in [Berstein et al. \(2000\)](#).

Age at natural menopause varies substantially under the influence of genetic and environmental factors ([McKinlay, 1996](#)). A relatively early age at menopause has been associated with reduced risk of endometrial cancer ([Kelsey et al., 1982](#); [Baron, 1984](#); [Baron et al., 1990](#); [Akhmedkhanov et al., 2001](#)). A one year decrease in age at menopause has been associated approximately with a 7% decrease in risk ([Kelsey et al., 1982](#)). It has been proposed that cigarette smoking decreases the age at natural menopause ([Baron et al., 1990](#)), more clearly with qualitative than quantitative smoking measures ([Parente et al., 2008](#)), and thus might reduce endometrial cancer risk through reduced exposure to endogenous estrogens. On average, smokers have menopause approximately 1 to 1.5 years earlier than non-smokers ([Terry et al., 2002b, 2004a](#)). Adjustment for obesity and other covariates did not alter the results ([Terry et al., 2002b](#)).

#### 4.4 Mechanistic considerations of the interaction of ethanol and tobacco carcinogens

The combined effects of alcoholic beverages and tobacco on the risk for cancer incidence and mortality have been widely studied in human populations. When tested for multiplicative and additive interactions, synergistic effects of alcoholic beverages and tobacco have been found, especially for oropharyngeal and oesophageal cancers ([Homann et al., 2000](#); [Castellsagué et al., 2004](#); [Salaspuro & Salaspuro, 2004](#); [Lee et al., 2005a](#); [Lee et al., 2007b](#)).

Data support at least four possible mechanisms for the modifying effects of alcoholic beverages on cancer risk due to tobacco.

1. Alcohol may have a local permeabilizing effect on penetration of the oral mucosa by tobacco carcinogens ([Du et al., 2000](#)), particularly important in the case of oropharyngeal and oesophageal cancer.
2. CYP2E1 and other CYPs may both activate and detoxify carcinogens present in tobacco smoke, including NDMA, NDEA, NNK, benzene and other tobacco-derived carcinogens in two ways: CYP induction increases metabolic activation of tobacco carcinogens leading to enhanced formation of proximate reactive chemical species at target sites; and alteration of phase II conjugation/detoxification enzymes by ethanol may also occur, changing the effective dose at the target site.
3. Competitive inhibition of CYP metabolism leads to reduced central hepatic and gastrointestinal clearance thus increasing dose delivery of carcinogens to peripheral target tissues (reviewed in [Meskar et al., 2001](#)).
4. Effects of acetaldehyde derived by microbial alcohol oxidation and from the tobacco smoke ([Homann et al., 2000](#); [Salaspuro & Salaspuro, 2004](#)).

Supportive evidence for ii) and iii) is briefly presented below.

##### 4.4.1 Effects of induction of CYPs by ethanol

###### (a) CYP2E1

Ethanol induces CYP2E1 in the human liver and in all species tested. Over 70 substrates of CYP2E1 have been compiled ([Raucy & Carpenter, 1993](#); [Guengerich et al., 1994](#); [Djordjević et al., 1998](#); [Klotz & Ammon, 1998](#); [Cederbaum, 2006](#)). Among those are tobacco carcinogens such as benzene, vinyl chloride, NDMA, NDEA and *N*-nitrosopyrrolidine, as well as many low-molecular-weight compounds. Induction of CYP2E1 by ethanol generated increased levels of toxic metabolites from the metabolism of many of these chemicals ([Novak & Woodcroft, 2000](#)). Pyridine, a constituent of tobacco smoke and

substrate of CYP2E1, generates DNA damaging products by redox-cycling ([Kim & Novak, 1990](#)).

In humans, in addition to the prominent CYP2E1 expression in the centrilobular regions of the liver, the enzyme is also detectable in the kidney cortex and, at lower levels, in organs such as the oropharynx, nasal mucosa, ovary, testis, small intestine, colon and pancreas ([Ingelman-Sundberg et al., 1994](#); [Lieber, 1999, 2004](#)).

In rats, ethanol induced CYP2E1 in epithelia of the cheek, tongue and oesophagus ([Shimizu et al., 1990](#)). As a result of CYP2E1 induction by ethanol in the upper respiratory tract and possibly of inhibition of carcinogen clearance, hamsters had a significant increase of nasal cavity and tracheal tumours after intraperitoneal injection of *N*-nitrosopyrrolidine ([McCoy et al., 1981](#)). Thus, induction of CYP2E1 by ethanol may participate in the genesis of cancers at several sites via metabolic activation of tobacco carcinogens into reactive species in target tissues.

#### (b) Other xenobiotic-activating CYPs

In addition to CYP2E1, several CYPs, including CYP3A4 and probably CYP1A2 in humans, and CYP1A1, 2B1 and 3A in rat liver, may be induced by ethanol. Of particular interest are members of the CYP3A family, which have wide substrate specificity and have been implicated in the activation of several known or suspected human carcinogens, including those derived from tobacco ([Wojnowski & Kamdem, 2006](#)). Both CYP3A4 and CYP1A2 metabolize NNK ([Jalas et al., 2005](#)). Based on the Michaelis constant (*K<sub>m</sub>*) data ([IARC, 2007a](#)), the relative efficiencies in NNK metabolism by human CYP are (from greatest catalyst to least): 2A13 > 2B6 > 2A6 > 1A2 ~1A1 > 2D6 ~2E1 ~3A4. As the amount of CYP enzymes with overlapping substrate specificity that participate in nitrosamine metabolism varies according to organ and species, it is difficult to determine their individual contribution at target sites.

#### 4.4.2 Effects of inhibition of CYPs by ethanol

Ethanol is a competitive inhibitor of CYP2E1 (reviewed in [Anderson, 1992](#)). It also inhibits the activities of CYP1A1, 2B6 and 2C19 but not those of CYP1A2.

Direct inhibition of CYPs by ethanol in target tissues may reduce metabolic activation of xenobiotics and hence local toxic and tumorigenic effects. Thus CYP inhibition in the liver could increase extrahepatic exposure to genotoxic metabolites from tobacco carcinogens that are substrates for these CYP enzymes. This mechanism is supported by several studies.

Ethanol caused a fivefold increase in oesophageal DNA adducts in rats induced by NDEA ([Swann, 1984](#)). In monkeys, *O*<sup>6</sup>-methylguanine-DNA adducts after an oral dose of NDMA with or without ethanol were increased by co-exposure to ethanol in all tissues except the liver ([Anderson et al., 1996](#)). Effects were seen in the oesophagus (17-fold increase), colonic mucosa (12-fold), pancreas (sixfold), urinary bladder (11-fold), ovary (ninefold), uterus (eightfold), brain (ninefold), spleen (13-fold) and nasal mucosa (fivefold). In these studies, ethanol treatment was acute, so that enzyme induction was improbable, and the oesophagus was not directly exposed to either ethanol or carcinogen. This indicates that a systemic interaction, most likely inhibition of hepatic carcinogen clearance, was responsible for the observed effects in the oesophagus and other extrahepatic tissues. The 17-fold increase in DNA adducts in the monkey oesophagus is similar to the 18-fold increased risk for human oesophageal cancers in tobacco smokers combined with heavy alcohol drinking ([Tuyens et al., 1977](#)).

The relevance of increased genotoxic effects in extrahepatic target sites by ethanol is confirmed by many rodent experiments. Oral dosing of mice with NDMA in ethanol resulted in nasal cavity tumours (olfactory neuroblastoma) that were not seen with NDMA or ethanol alone ([Griciute](#)

[et al., 1981](#)). Ethanol in the drinking-water led to a ninefold increase in oesophageal tumours in rats induced by NDEA ([Aze et al., 1993](#)). Ethanol given by gavage to nursing dams together with NDMA or NNK ([Chhabra et al., 2000](#)) increased O<sup>6</sup>-methylguanine-DNA adducts in maternal mammary glands, by 10-fold with NDMA and to a lesser extent with NNK. In the suckling infants, DNA adducts were detected in the lungs and kidneys after maternal exposure to NDMA and increased about fourfold after maternal co-treatment with ethanol. In mice, ethanol given with NDMA in the drinking-water resulted in a fourfold increase in lung tumours, but had no significant effect when NDMA was given intragastrically, intraperitoneally, subcutaneously or intravenously ([Anderson, 1992](#)). These negative findings support that direct inhibition of hepatic carcinogen clearance by ethanol is the main operative mechanism.

There is indirect evidence that ethanol can inhibit the *in vivo* clearance of the carcinogen NDMA in humans: individuals with chronic renal failure showed detectable blood and urine levels of NDMA, which were increased by consumption of ethanol ([Dunn et al., 1990](#)). Other studies that involved sources of NDMA from tobacco smoke, diet or pharmaceuticals are consistent with ethanol reducing its clearance rate in humans ([Anderson, 1992](#)).

Other possible modifying effects of ethanol in tobacco-related tumorigenesis are presented in Section 4 of the *Monograph on Consumption of Alcoholic Beverages* in this Volume.

## 4.5 Synthesis

### 4.5.1 Mechanisms of tobacco-related carcinogenesis

The pathways by which tobacco products cause cancer essentially recapitulate established mechanisms of carcinogenesis by individual compounds, which were elaborated by landmark

studies during the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. These studies demonstrate that most carcinogens, either directly or after metabolism catalyzed by multiple cytochrome P450 enzymes, react with nucleophilic sites in DNA to form covalent binding products called adducts (a contraction for “addition products”). These DNA adducts, if left unrepaired by cellular DNA repair enzymes, persist and cause mistakes during DNA replication leading to incorporation of the wrong base in a DNA strand and consequent permanent mutations. If these permanent mutations occur in important regions of critical growth control genes such as the oncogene *KRAS* or the tumor suppressor gene *p53*, cellular growth processes can become severely unregulated and cancer can result. Multiple studies of mutations in *KRAS*, *p53*, and other growth control genes in lung tumours from smokers, some of which report thousands of mutations, are fully consistent with this overall concept.

It is the complexity of tobacco carcinogenesis which challenges investigators to identify specific mechanisms that fully explain the ways in which tobacco products cause each type of cancer. There are over 70 established carcinogens in cigarette smoke, and analyses of smokers’ urine and blood clearly demonstrate higher uptake of these compounds in smokers than in non-smokers. The urine of smokers is consistently mutagenic. Similar considerations apply to smokeless tobacco users, although there are fewer identified carcinogens. Multiple DNA adducts are present in the lungs and other tissues of smokers, and sister chromatid exchanges as well as other genetic effects are consistently observed. But much less is known about the specifics of the process. Only relatively few DNA adducts in smokers’ lungs have been structurally characterized and the relationship between specific adducts and the consequent mutations in critical genes is still somewhat unsettled.

There are other processes which contribute to cancer induction by tobacco products, based on



multiple studies in both laboratory animals and humans. These include inflammation, tumor promotion, oxidative damage, co-carcinogenesis, and direct activation of cellular growth pathways by constituents of smoke. Many studies demonstrate the involvement of these processes in tobacco carcinogenesis but the details by which they interact with the DNA damage pathways and their roles in specific cancers caused by tobacco products are still not fully understood.

#### 4.5.2 Genetic polymorphisms

Multiple studies have been carried out on the role of genetic polymorphisms of xenobiotic metabolism in smoking-related carcinogenesis in humans. These studies have covered various cancer types, with lung cancer representing one of the most intensively studied. The polymorphic genes, their variant forms, and the genotype combinations investigated in these studies have similarly been numerous. In addition to the associations with increased risk of cancer, much data have accumulated on relationships between the polymorphisms and the various biomarkers of tobacco carcinogenesis in non-cancer control populations, whether smokers or non-smokers, in subjects with work-related exposure or in patients with other cancers.

Despite the massive body of research, many observations remain ambiguous. Some associations between genetic polymorphism and increased risk for cancer, such as for the *GSTM1* null genotype, alone or in combination with *CYP1A1* polymorphism, in lung cancer, or the *NAT2* slow acetylator genotype in bladder cancer and breast cancer appear stronger and more consistent, but not without controversies. Similarly, the data on the various biomarkers of tobacco-related carcinogenesis exhibit inconsistencies.

The variability in the data is at least partially likely due to differences between the studies in the genes and gene variants included (many of

which are still of unknown functional or regulatory consequence), in the types of cancer studied, in levels and sources of exposure, in ethnic backgrounds, in sex, in histological types and in the features of the genome such as haplotype blocks and copy number variation resulting in linkage disequilibrium. In addition, gene-gene interactions and gene-environment interactions are likely to contribute to the discrepancies in current data. Mechanisms of tobacco-related carcinogenesis also involve genes from numerous other classes, such as those encoding for DNA repair proteins and many other regulators of cell cycle and growth. In addition; there are well described mechanistic pathways of carcinogenesis mediated via epigenetic alterations and genetic instability, to mention a few.

#### 4.5.3 Site-specific mechanisms

The Working Group reviewed the mechanistic evidence relative to specific target sites for which there is sufficient evidence of carcinogenicity in humans, i.e. lung, oral cavity, oesophagus, larynx and nasopharynx, pancreas, stomach, liver, urinary bladder, leukaemia, cervix and ovary. Genotoxic effects have been found in eight organ sites at which tobacco smoke causes cancer in humans ([DeMarini, 2004](#)).

Sites with limited evidence of carcinogenicity or evidence suggesting lack of carcinogenicity in humans include the breast and the endothelium and relevant mechanisms are presented below.

Breast — There are several plausible mechanisms by which smoking may increase breast cancer risk, and some data support such an effect, including the increased risk among long-term smokers with *NAT2* slow genotype. Despite the overall lack of clear association in epidemiological studies, and the potential anti-estrogenic effects of smoking, the possibility that smoking increases breast cancer risk is biologically plausible.



Endothelium — The mechanisms by which cigarette smoking reduces the risk for endometrial cancer among current smokers, mainly among postmenopausal, remain unclear.

#### 4.5.4 Interaction of ethanol and tobacco carcinogens

Data in rodents and non-human primates on the relationships between a) inhibition of hepatic clearance of nitrosamines by ethanol, b) the formation of promutagenic DNA adducts and c) tumours in extra-hepatic targets, likely also pertain in humans.

## 5. Evaluation

There is *sufficient evidence* in humans for the carcinogenicity of tobacco smoking.

Tobacco smoking causes cancers of the lung, oral cavity, naso-, oro- and hypopharynx, nasal cavity and accessory sinuses, larynx, oesophagus, stomach, pancreas, colorectum, liver, kidney (body and pelvis), ureter, urinary bladder, uterine cervix and ovary (mucinous), and myeloid leukaemia. Also, a positive association has been observed between tobacco smoking and cancer of the female breast. For cancers of the endometrium (post-menopausal) and of the thyroid, there is *evidence suggesting lack of carcinogenicity*.

There is *sufficient evidence* in humans for the carcinogenicity of parental smoking. Parental smoking causes hepatoblastoma in children. Also, a positive association has been observed between parental smoking and childhood leukaemia (particularly acute lymphocytic leukaemia).

There is *sufficient evidence* in experimental animals for the carcinogenicity of tobacco smoke and of tobacco smoke condensates.

Tobacco smoking is *carcinogenic to humans* (Group 1).

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# SECOND-HAND TOBACCO SMOKE

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Second-hand tobacco smoke was considered by a previous IARC Working Group in 2002 as “involuntary smoking” ([IARC, 2004](#)). Since that time, new data have become available, these have been incorporated into the *Monograph*, and taken into consideration in the present evaluation.

## 1. Exposure Data

Second-hand tobacco smoke comprises the smoke released from the burning tip of a cigarette (or other burned tobacco product) between puffs (called sidestream smoke (SM)) and the smoke exhaled by the smoker (exhaled mainstream smoke (MS)). Small additional amounts are contributed from the tip of the cigarette and through the cigarette paper during a puff, and through the paper and from the mouth end of the cigarette between puffs ([Jenkins \*et al.\*, 2000](#)).

Second-hand tobacco smoke is also referred as ‘environmental tobacco smoke’, ‘passive smoking’ or ‘involuntary smoking’ ([IARC, 2004](#)). The terms ‘passive smoking’ or ‘involuntary smoking’ suggest that while involuntary or passive smoking is not acceptable, voluntary or active smoking is acceptable. In this document, we use the term second-hand tobacco smoke ([WHO, 2010](#)).

### 1.1 Chemical composition

Many studies have examined the concentrations of cigarette smoke constituents in mainstream and sidestream smoke. The composition

of mainstream and sidestream smoke is qualitatively similar but quantitatively different. The ratios of sidestream to mainstream smoke vary greatly depending on the constituent. Some representative SS:MS ratios are: nicotine, 7.1; carbon monoxide, 4.8; ammonia, 455; formaldehyde, 36.5; acrolein, 18.6; benzo[*a*]pyrene, 16.0; *N*′-nitrosonornicotine (NNN), 0.43; (methylnitrosamino)-1-(3-pyridyl)-1-butanone (NNK), 0.40 ([Jenkins \*et al.\*, 2000](#); [IARC, 2004](#)).

The physicochemical properties of second-hand tobacco smoke are different from those of mainstream smoke and sidestream smoke because of its rapid dilution and dispersion into the indoor environment ([IARC, 2004](#)). Concentrations of individual constituents in second-hand tobacco smoke can vary with time and environmental conditions. Field studies of these constituents and representative data have been extensively summarized ([Jenkins \*et al.\*, 2000](#); [IARC, 2004](#)). Some representative data are presented in [Table 1.1](#) ([Jenkins \*et al.\*, 2000](#); [IARC, 2004](#); [US Department of Health and Human Services, 2006](#)).

**Table 1.1 Concentration of selected constituents in second-hand tobacco smoke**

Constituent	Concentration
Nicotine	10–100 µg/m <sup>3</sup>
Carbon monoxide	5–20 ppm
Benzene	15–30 µg/m <sup>3</sup>
Formaldehyde	100–140 µg/m <sup>3</sup>
Acetaldehyde	200–300 µg/m <sup>3</sup>
1,3-Butadiene	20–40 µg/m <sup>3</sup>
Benzo[a]pyrene	0.37–1.7 ng/m <sup>3</sup>
NNK	0.2–29.3 ng/m <sup>3</sup>
NNN	0.7–23 ng/m <sup>3</sup>

## 1.2 Sources of exposure

Second-hand tobacco smoke is present in virtually all places where smoking takes place ([Navas-Acien \*et al.\*, 2004](#)): at home, in the workplace, in bars, restaurants, public buildings, hospitals, public transport and educational institutions. The setting that represents the most important source of exposure differs depending on the population. For example in children, the home environment may constitute a significant source of exposure, while other sources that may contribute are schools and public transportation. Likewise, for most women, the home environment is the primary source of second-hand tobacco smoke, which may be enhanced by exposure at the workplace.

Biomarker studies have evaluated carcinogen uptake in non-smokers to second-hand tobacco smoke. The NNK metabolites NNAL and its glucuronides (total NNAL) are consistently elevated in non-smokers exposed to second-hand tobacco smoke, in studies conducted in various living and occupational environments, and from infancy through adulthood ([Hecht \*et al.\*, 2006](#); [Hecht, 2008](#)). Levels of the biomarker of PAHs, urinary 1-hydroxypyrene, were significantly elevated in a large study of non-smokers exposed to second-hand tobacco smoke ([Suwan-ampai \*et al.\*, 2009](#)).

## 1.3 Measures of exposure

A conceptual framework for considering exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke is the “microenvironmental model,” which takes the weighted sum of the concentrations of second-hand tobacco smoke in the microenvironments where time is spent, with the weights the time spent in each, as a measure of personal exposure ([Jaakkola & Jaakkola, 1997](#)). Direct measures of exposure use concentrations of second-hand tobacco smoke components in the air in the home, workplace, or other environments, combined with information on the time spent in the microenvironments where exposure took place. Measurements of tobacco smoke biomarker(s) in biological specimens also represent a direct measure of exposure to second-hand smoke ([Samet & Yang, 2001](#); [Table 1.2](#)). Indirect measures are generally obtained by survey questionnaires. These include self-reported exposure and descriptions of the source of second-hand tobacco smoke in relevant microenvironments, most often the home and workplace ([Samet & Yang, 2001](#)).

One useful surrogate measure, and the only available in many countries, is the prevalence of smoking among men and women. It provides a measure of the likelihood of exposure. In most countries in Asia and the Middle East,

**Table 1.2 Types of indicators measuring exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke**

Measure	Suggested indicators
Direct	Concentration of second-hand tobacco smoke components in the air: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Nicotine</li> <li>- Respirable particles</li> <li>- Other markers</li> </ul> Biomarker concentrations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cotinine</li> <li>- Carboxyhaemoglobin</li> </ul>
Indirect	Report of second-hand tobacco smoke exposure at: <u>Home</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Number of smokers</li> <li>- Smoking of parents</li> <li>- Intensity (number of cigarettes smoked)</li> </ul> <u>Workplace</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Presence of second-hand tobacco smoke</li> <li>- Number of smokers</li> </ul>
Surrogate	Prevalence of smoking tobacco in men and in women Self-reported smoking habits of parents Nicotine concentration in house dust

From [Samet & Yang \(2001\)](#) and [Whitehead \*et al.\* \(2009\)](#)

for example, the very high prevalence of smoking among men combined with the low prevalence among women would imply that most women are exposed to second-hand tobacco smoke at home ([Samet & Yang, 2001](#)).

To measure exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke in children, self-reported smoking habits of their parents are used as a surrogate ([US Department of Health and Human Services, 2006](#)). More recently, other surrogate measures such as nicotine concentrations in house dust have been considered less biased than parental smoking as they reflect cumulative smoking habits and long-term exposure rather than current patterns of smoking ([Whitehead \*et al.\*, 2009](#)).

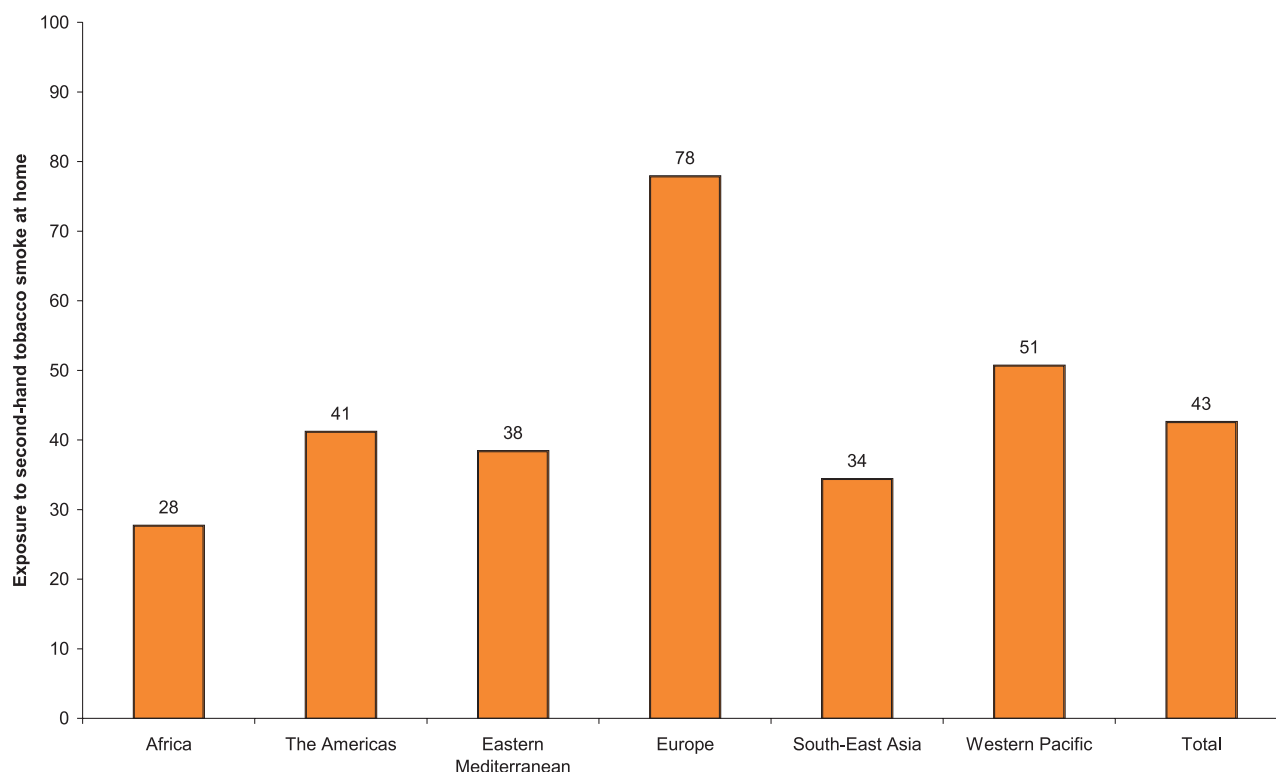
## 1.4 Prevalence of exposure

### 1.4.1 Exposure among children

#### (a) Overview

The most extensive population-based data on exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke among children are available through the Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS) ([CDC/WHO, 2009](#)). GYTS is part of the Global Tobacco Surveillance System (GTSS), developed by the WHO and the United States' Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in 1998. The GYTS is a school-based survey designed to measure tobacco use and some key tobacco control measures among youth (13–15 years) using a common methodology and core questionnaire. While most GYTS are national surveys, in some countries they are limited to subnational locations. Further, countries conduct the GYTS in different years, rendering comparison across countries for the same year difficult. The GYTS questionnaire

**Fig. 1.1 Average prevalence (in%) of 13–15 year old children living in a home where others smoke, by WHO region, 2007**



From [CDC \(2008\)](#)

asks about children's exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke in their home or in other places in the last 7 days preceding the survey. Since its inception in 1999, over 2 million students in 160 countries representing all six WHO regions have participated in the GYTS ([WHO, 2008, 2009a](#)).

Country-level estimates on second-hand tobacco smoke exposure at home and in public places among youth are available in the WHO Reports on the global tobacco epidemic ([WHO, 2008, 2009a, 2011](#)).

#### (b) *Exposure at home*

Nearly half of youth aged 13–15 years are exposed to second-hand tobacco smoke in their homes (Fig. 1.1; [CDC, 2008](#)). Among the six WHO regions, exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke at home was highest in the European Region

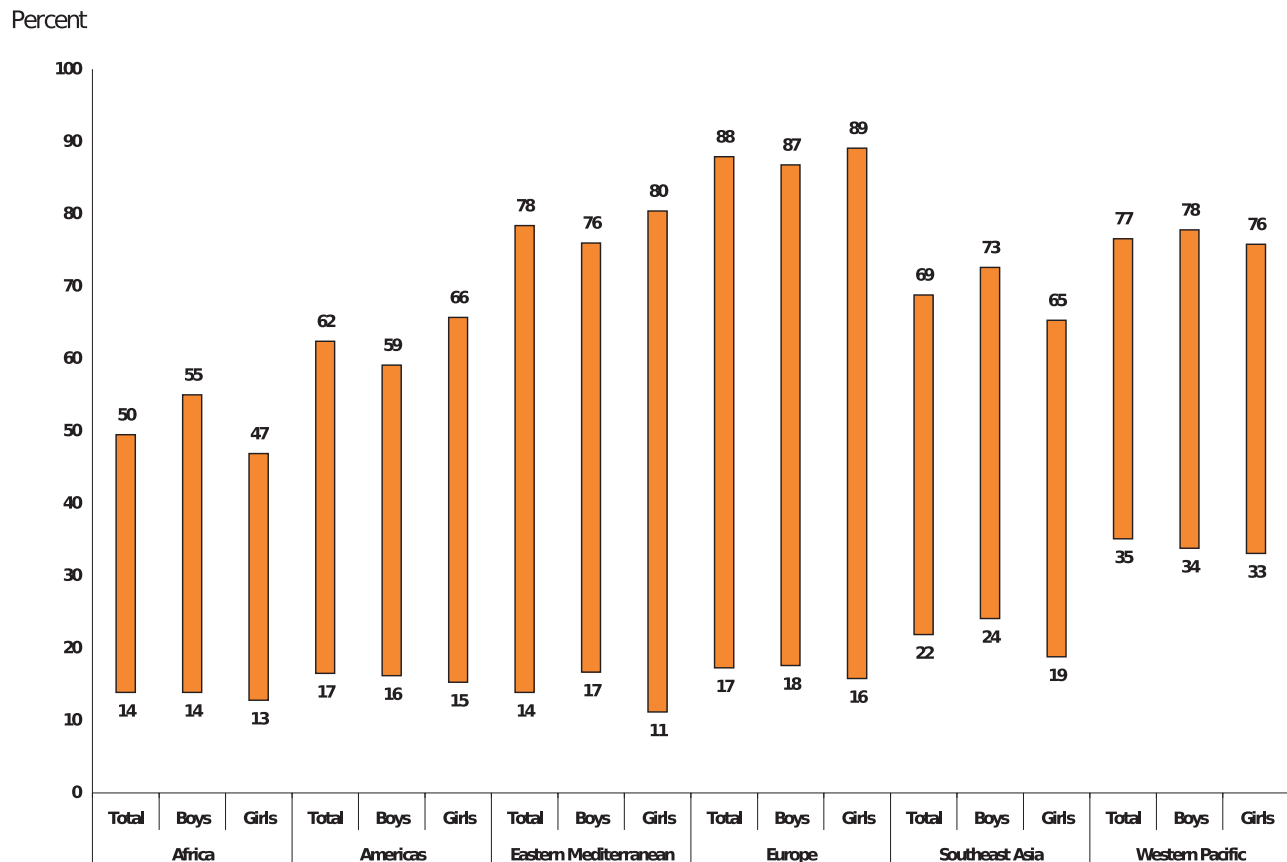
(77.8%) and lowest in the African region (27.6%). In the other four regions, exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke at home ranged from 50.6% in the Western Pacific Region to 34.3% in the South East Asian Region.

Fig. 1.2 shows the range of exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke at home by WHO region for boys and girls and for both sexes combined. The largest variations are observed in the Eastern Mediterranean Region and the European Region irrespective of sex. These variations are predominantly due to differences in parental smoking prevalence between countries, as well as the impact of the smoke-free places campaigns in place in various countries.

Country-level estimates from the Global Youth Tobacco Survey (1999–2009) are presented in [Table 1.3](#).



**Fig. 1.2 Range of prevalence (in%) of exposure of 13–15 year old children to second-hand tobacco smoke at home, by WHO region, 2009**



From [CDC/WHO \(2009\)](#)

Öberg and colleagues have estimated the worldwide exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke among children by using parent's current smoking status as an indicator of exposure among children ([WHO, 2010](#)). Four out of ten children (approximately 700 million children globally) have at least one parent who currently smokes, predisposing them to exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke at home ([Table 1.4](#)). Children in the Western Pacific Region had the highest level of potential exposure (68%) while Africa had the lowest, with about 13% of children having at least one parent who smoked. In the 2010 WHO Report on global estimate of the burden of disease from second-hand smoke ([WHO,](#)

[2010](#)), country-level estimates were collected or modelled from various sources. [Data partially overlap with those of the Global Youth Tobacco Survey].

### (c) *Exposure outside home*

Similar to second-hand tobacco smoke exposure at home, almost half of the youth are exposed to second-hand tobacco smoke in public places, according to estimates from the Global Youth Tobacco Survey (Fig. 1.3; [CDC, 2008](#)). Exposure was highest in Europe (86.1%); for the other five regions, exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke in public places ranged from 64.1% in the Western Pacific to 43.7% in Africa.

**Table 1.3 Prevalence of exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke at home and outside home among 13–15 year olds, by country and sex, from the Global Youth Tobacco Survey (participating countries only) — 1999–2009**

Country	WHO region	National survey, or jurisdiction where survey conducted	Year	Exposed to second-hand tobacco smoke at home			Exposed to second-hand tobacco smoke outside their homes		
				Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls
Afghanistan	EMRO	Kabul	2004	38.8	43.4	33.3	45.0	60.2	23.6
Albania	EURO	National	2009	49.7	48.6	50.9	64.5	65.3	63.9
Algeria	AFRO	Constantine	2007	38.7	39.8	37.9	60.2	66.0	56.2
Antigua and Barbuda	AMRO	National	2009	26.7	22.5	29.7	47.5	45.0	49.6
Argentina	AMRO	National	2007	54.7	51.7	57.7	68.6	66.4	70.7
Armenia	EURO	National	2009	70.6	69.2	71.6	78.3	80.7	76.4
Bahamas	AMRO	National	2009	25.1	23.4	27.0	51.0	50.8	52.7
Bahrain	EMRO	National	2002	38.7	37.2	39.5	45.3	49.7	40.9
Bangladesh	SEARO	National	2007	34.7	37.8	32.4	42.2	47.1	38.7
Barbados	AMRO	National	2007	25.9	25.9	26.0	59.6	59.7	59.6
Belize	AMRO	National	2008	25.7	26.2	25.1	50.4	52.1	48.6
Benin	AFRO	Atlantique Littoral	2003	21.5	23.7	18.3	38.0	41.3	33.5
Bhutan	SEARO	National	2009	29.5	29.2	29.5	59.4	58.6	59.7
The Plurinational State of Bolivia	AMRO	La Paz	2003	34.3	34.3	34.4	52.9	54.4	51.4
Bosnia and Herzegovina	EURO	National	2008	77.3	74.0	80.3	84.0	82.3	85.6
Botswana	AFRO	National	2008	38.5	38.2	38.6	62.1	60.0	63.7
Brazil	AMRO	São Paulo	2009	35.5	31.9	38.7	51.3	48.2	54.1
Bulgaria	EURO	National	2008	63.9	61.5	66.3	70.1	66.7	73.7
Burkina Faso	AFRO	Ouagadougou	2009	29.2	28.9	29.2	47.5	53.5	42.2
Burundi	AFRO	National	2008	33.9	35.2	31.7	49.3	54.0	45.3
Cambodia	WPRO	National	2003	47.0	48.9	44.5	58.5	60.6	56.5
Cameroon	AFRO	Yaounde	2008	21.7	25.0	19.1	45.8	49.3	42.4
Cape Verde	AFRO	National	2007	13.9	13.9	13.7	25.4	27.0	24.2
Central African Republic	AFRO	Bangui	2008	35.2	29.9	40.7	52.4	49.9	53.8
Chad	AFRO	National	2008	33.9	34.1	31.2	55.1	54.0	56.2
Chile	AMRO	Santiago	2008	51.7	48.9	54.4	68.3	63.4	73.0
China	WPRO	Shanghai	2005	47.0	46.6	47.4	35.2	34.2	36.2
Colombia	AMRO	Bogota	2007	26.2	25.3	27.0	56.1	55.1	56.9
Comoros	AFRO	National	2007	35.2	35.7	34.9	58.3	66.7	52.9
Congo	AFRO	National	2009	22.3	24.7	19.6	44.4	46.8	41.5
Cook Islands	WPRO	National	2008	61.9	58.8	64.5	73.8	70.3	76.8

Table 1.3 (continued)

Country	WHO region	National survey, or jurisdiction where survey conducted	Year	Exposed to second-hand tobacco smoke at home		Exposed to second-hand tobacco smoke outside their homes			
				Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls
Costa Rica	AMRO	National	2008	21.6	20.8	22.1	41.5	40.0	42.8
Côte d'Ivoire	AFRO	National	2009	33.1	33.1	33.0	74.4	75.9	72.3
Croatia	EURO	National	2007	73.4	71.4	75.7	82.5	81.2	84.2
Cuba	AMRO	Havana	2004	62.4	59.1	65.7	65.0	64.6	65.8
Cyprus	EURO	National	2005	87.9	86.8	89.1	87.8	85.4	90.4
Czech Republic	EURO	National	2007	38.0	37.3	38.9	75.2	71.6	79.5
Democratic Republic of the Congo	AFRO	Kinshasa	2008	30.2	32.5	27.0	36.8	37.4	34.7
Djibouti	EMRO	National	2009	36.0	36.2	35.3	44.7	44.8	44.8
Dominica	AMRO	National	2009	26.9	25.2	27.4	62.3	61.4	62.5
Dominican Republic	AMRO	National	2004	33.1	31.1	34.5	41.9	38.5	44.9
Ecuador	AMRO	Quito	2007	28.9	27.5	30.2	52.5	49.5	54.6
Egypt	EMRO	National	2009	47.6	50.1	45.9	52.2	57.7	47.5
El Salvador	AMRO	National	2009	17.9	19.3	16.5	33.7	36.7	30.7
Equatorial Guinea	AFRO	National	2008	47.5	47.8	45.8	61.7	64.0	59.8
Eritrea	AFRO	National	2006	18.4	20.4	14.8	37.3	40.4	32.3
Estonia	EURO	National	2007	41.1	39.3	42.8	68.5	68.2	68.7
Ethiopia	AFRO	Addis Ababa	2003	14.9	15.5	12.8	41.2	45.1	37.4
Fiji	WPRO	National	2009	42.1	45.4	39.6	55.1	55.2	54.9
Gambia	AFRO	Banjul	2008	45.8	45.8	44.4	59.2	61.6	57.2
Georgia	EURO	National	2008	62.7	62.4	62.8	74.4	75.5	73.4
Ghana	AFRO	National	2009	19.1	19.6	17.9	32.3	33.9	30.4
Greece	EURO	National	2005	...	...	...	...	...	...
Grenada	AMRO	National	2009	27.3	24.9	29.7	53.1	50.5	55.7
Guatemala	AMRO	National	2008	23.1	23.9	22.1	40.8	43.8	37.9
Guinea	AFRO	National	2008	27.7	27.6	28.1	52.3	57.0	48.1
Guinea-Bissau	AFRO	Bissau	2008	31.0	32.1	29.7	35.3	36.6	34.1
Guyana	AMRO	National	2004	33.4	36.6	30.6	61.1	62.9	59.1
Haiti	AMRO	Port-au-Prince	2005	32.3	34.7	29.6	43.2	46.2	40.4
Honduras	AMRO	Tegucigalpa	2003	29.6	26.2	31.6	42.2	46.9	38.4
Hungary	EURO	National	2008	43.0	39.9	45.3	72.6	70.0	74.7
India	SEARO	National	2009	21.9	24.1	18.8	36.6	39.0	33.1
Indonesia	SEARO	National	2009	68.8	72.6	65.3	78.1	83.7	73.1

**Table 1.3 (continued)**

Country	WHO region	National survey, or jurisdiction where survey conducted	Year	Exposed to second-hand tobacco smoke at home		Exposed to second-hand tobacco smoke outside their homes			
				Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls
Islamic Republic of Iran	EMRO	National	2007	35.4	38.1	32.7	44.8	49.8	39.6
Iraq	EMRO	Baghdad	2008	32.3	30.3	34.4	29.2	27.8	30.7
Jamaica	AMRO	National	2006	32.5	32.2	32.5	60.5	59.9	61.6
Jordan	EMRO	National	2009	53.6	50.6	55.5	50.5	50.6	49.7
Kenya	AFRO	National	2007	24.7	25.4	23.6	48.2	48.6	47.6
Kiribati	WPRO	National	2009	68.3	68.7	68.3	65.8	67.9	64.0
Kuwait	EMRO	National	2009	49.8	46.9	52.0	53.3	54.3	52.4
Kyrgyzstan	EURO	National	2008	33.4	35.1	31.9	57.7	58.7	56.8
Lao People's Democratic Republic	WPRO	Vientiane Capital	2007	40.3	41.2	39.5	55.4	57.7	53.2
Latvia	EURO	National	2007	55.2	55.1	55.1	72.7	73.2	72.3
Lebanon	EMRO	National	2005	78.4	76.0	80.4	74.4	73.9	74.7
Lesotho	AFRO	National	2008	36.9	34.2	37.3	52.6	50.2	53.2
Liberia	AFRO	Monrovia	2008	23.6	22.2	24.5	45.5	45.1	45.4
Lithuania	EURO	National	2009	38.3	34.1	42.6	64.9	66.5	63.3
Madagascar	AFRO	National	2008	49.5	55.0	44.9	62.9	69.5	57.5
Malawi	AFRO	National	2009	19.7	25.0	14.0	29.5	32.9	26.1
Malaysia	WPRO	National	2009	48.7	49.6	47.6	64.1	67.7	60.2
Maldives	SEARO	National	2007	48.3	49.4	47.1	68.0	70.6	65.4
Mali	AFRO	National	2008	48.5	50.1	46.9	81.4	83.1	79.2
Marshall Islands	WPRO	National	2009	52.1	54.7	50.5	59.7	60.5	60.6
Mauritania	AFRO	National	2009	37.5	39.8	35.0	50.9	55.4	47.1
Mauritius	AFRO	National	2008	36.1	38.5	34.1	73.6	77.2	70.7
Mexico	AMRO	Mexico City	2006	46.2	46.3	45.5	60.2	61.6	59.0
Federated States of Micronesia	WPRO	National	2007	60.7	60.4	59.6	71.3	73.3	68.7
Mongolia	WPRO	National	2007	54.4	53.7	54.3	55.5	60.7	50.7
Montenegro	EURO	National	2008	76.8	73.5	79.9	69.9	68.8	70.8
Morocco	EMRO	National	2006	27.1	24.7	29.2	41.1	41.1	40.9
Mozambique	AFRO	Maputo	2007	22.5	25.2	19.6	26.2	28.6	23.0
Myanmar	SEARO	National	2007	34.1	38.8	29.4	46.4	51.2	42.1
Namibia	AFRO	National	2008	38.1	38.0	37.9	49.9	47.7	51.5
Nepal	SEARO	National	2007	35.3	38.5	31.7	47.3	49.5	44.7
New Zealand	WPRO	National	2008	36.0	38.5	33.1	67.2	63.3	71.3

Table 1.3 (continued)

Country	WHO region	National survey, or jurisdiction where survey conducted	Year	Exposed to second-hand tobacco smoke at home			Exposed to second-hand tobacco smoke outside their homes		
				Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls
Nicaragua	AMRO	Centro Managua	2003	43.7	43.9	43.2	54.1	56.4	51.9
Niger	AFRO	National	2009	24.1	28.1	20.4	54.3	58.8	50.2
Nigeria	AFRO	Abuja	2008	21.7	29.2	12.8	39.7	43.6	36.0
Oman	EMRO	National	2007	13.9	16.7	11.2	27.4	29.8	25.2
Pakistan	EMRO	Islamabad	2003	26.6	32.1	21.7	33.9	42.5	26.4
Palau	WPRO	National	2009	...	...	...	79.2	70.4	85.3
Panama	AMRO	National	2008	21.9	22.2	21.5	40.3	38.9	41.4
Papua New Guinea	WPRO	National	2007	73.9	75.4	72.2	86.4	87.0	85.6
Paraguay	AMRO	National	2008	32.5	35.1	30.1	55.3	57.3	53.4
Peru	AMRO	National	2007	25.5	26.2	24.2	46.8	46.9	46.4
Philippines	WPRO	National	2007	54.5	55.7	53.1	64.8	67.2	62.8
Poland	EURO	Warsaw	2009	49.1	42.8	54.6	76.8	75.5	77.8
Qatar	EMRO	National	2007	35.7	36.3	35.2	45.9	52.1	42.8
Republic of Korea	WPRO	National	2008	37.6	33.8	41.6	70.8	67.3	74.8
Republic of Moldova	EURO	National	2008	20.3	20.6	20.1	57.0	59.4	54.8
Romania	EURO	National	2009	52.8	50.0	55.4	59.1	57.1	61.3
Russian Federation	EURO	National	2004	76.4	74.3	78.5	89.4	89.0	89.9
Rwanda	AFRO	National	2008	19.2	19.9	18.0	...	...	...
Saint Kitts and Nevis	AMRO	National	2002	16.5	16.2	15.3	48.8	48.0	49.0
Saint Lucia	AMRO	National	2007	25.2	28.4	22.6	64.0	61.1	65.7
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	AMRO	National	2007	31.5	31.7	30.9	59.7	56.5	61.8
Samoa	WPRO	National	2007	59.1	60.8	56.4	62.8	64.8	60.5
San Marino	EURO	National	2009	32.9	31.8	34.0	65.8	62.8	69.3
Saudi Arabia	EMRO	National	2007	27.9	28.9	26.4	38.2	45.1	31.6
Senegal	AFRO	National	2007	47.6	49.9	42.5	48.3	48.3	45.0
Serbia	EURO	National	2008	76.9	73.4	80.0	71.9	68.1	74.8
Seychelles	AFRO	National	2007	42.3	38.2	46.1	57.1	54.3	60.6
Sierra Leone	AFRO	National	2008	44.2	46.3	42.9	56.5	59.9	53.4
Singapore	WPRO	National	2000	35.1	34.8	35.2	65.1	64.0	66.0
Slovakia	EURO	National	2007	44.9	42.4	46.9	69.3	68.0	70.5
Somalia	EMRO	Somaliland	2007	29.1	30.8	21.9	48.7	50.2	41.8
South Africa	AFRO	National	2008	32.1	32.7	31.5	41.1	43.5	39.4



**Table 1.3 (continued)**

Country	WHO region	National survey, or jurisdiction where survey conducted	Year	Exposed to second-hand tobacco smoke at home			Exposed to second-hand tobacco smoke outside their homes		
				Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls
Sri Lanka	SEARO	National	2007	35.4	37.6	33.4	65.9	66.5	65.1
Sudan	EMRO	National	2009	27.6	26.0	28.7	33.1	33.8	32.0
Suriname	AMRO	National	2009	46.6	44.2	47.7	53.3	51.4	53.8
Swaziland	AFRO	National	2009	23.3	21.8	24.3	55.6	52.1	58.0
Syrian Arab Republic	EMRO	National	2010	60.1	58.7	61.7	58.4	61.1	55.7
Thailand	SEARO	National	2009	45.7	46.6	44.7	67.6	68.0	67.1
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	EURO	National	2008	67.5	64.7	70.5	66.0	63.7	68.3
Timor-Leste	SEARO	National	2009	59.4	66.7	52.1	61.3	66.7	56.0
Togo	AFRO	National	2007	20.2	23.5	15.7	41.6	45.1	36.7
Trinidad and Tobago	AMRO	National	2007	40.1	36.3	43.6	64.2	62.8	65.9
Tunisia	EMRO	National	2007	51.9	53.1	50.6	65.2	69.7	61.0
Turkey	EURO	National	2009	48.6	43.8	53.0	79.9	80.1	79.6
Tuvalu	WPRO	National	2006	76.6	77.8	75.8	76.7	72.0	79.3
Uganda	AFRO	National	2007	20.0	20.7	18.8	45.6	46.1	45.2
United Arab Emirates	EMRO	National	2005	25.3	24.3	25.4	31.6	34.3	28.4
United Republic of Tanzania	AFRO	Arusha	2008	15.7	16.4	14.9	34.7	35.2	33.9
United States of America	AMRO	National	2009	35.7	35.3	36.1	42.8	38.2	47.6
Uruguay	AMRO	National	2007	50.5	47.6	52.5	68.6	64.0	72.1
Uzbekistan	EURO	Tashkent	2008	17.3	17.6	15.8	46.7	47.5	42.4
Vanuatu	WPRO	National	2007	59.3	62.8	56.7	75.9	78.7	73.9
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	AMRO	National	1999	43.5	40.7	45.3	47.8	47.0	48.4
Viet Nam	WPRO	National	2007	58.5	59.0	58.0	71.2	71.4	71.0
West Bank*	EMRO	West Bank	2009	63.0	61.6	64.4	61.6	67.6	55.8
Gaza Strip*	EMRO	Gaza Strip	2005	47.4	48.0	46.5	46.1	51.9	40.6
Yemen	EMRO	National	2008	44.9	48.2	37.8	42.7	49.8	30.7
Zambia	AFRO	Lusaka	2007	23.1	21.2	24.3	45.5	43.2	47.1
Zimbabwe	AFRO	Harare	2008	20.9	22.0	19.4	40.1	40.5	39.5

\* Refers to a territory  
From [WHO \(2008, 2009a\)](#)

**Table 1.4 Proportion of children under 15 years with one or more parent who smokes, by WHO subregion (based on survey data and modeling)**

Subregion	Parental smoking (%)
Africa (D)	13
Africa (E)	13
The Americas (A)	25
The Americas (B)	29
The Americas (D)	22
Eastern Mediterranean (B)	37
Eastern Mediterranean (D)	34
Europe (A)	51
Europe (B)	61
Europe (C)	61
South-eastern Asia (B)	53
South-eastern Asia (D)	36
Western Pacific (A)	51
Western Pacific (B)	68
GLOBAL	41

WHO subregional country grouping (adapted from [WHO, 2002](#)):

**Africa. Region D:** Algeria, Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, Comoros, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Niger, Nigeria, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Togo; **Region E:** Botswana, Burundi, Central African Republic, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, South Africa, Swaziland, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe

**The Americas. Region A:** Canada, Cuba, USA; **Region B:** Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Grenada, Guyana, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay, Venezuela; **Region D:** Bolivia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Haiti, Nicaragua, Peru

**Eastern Mediterranean. Region B:** Bahrain, Islamic Republic of Iran, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates; **Region D:** Afghanistan, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Morocco, Pakistan, Somalia, Sudan, Yemen

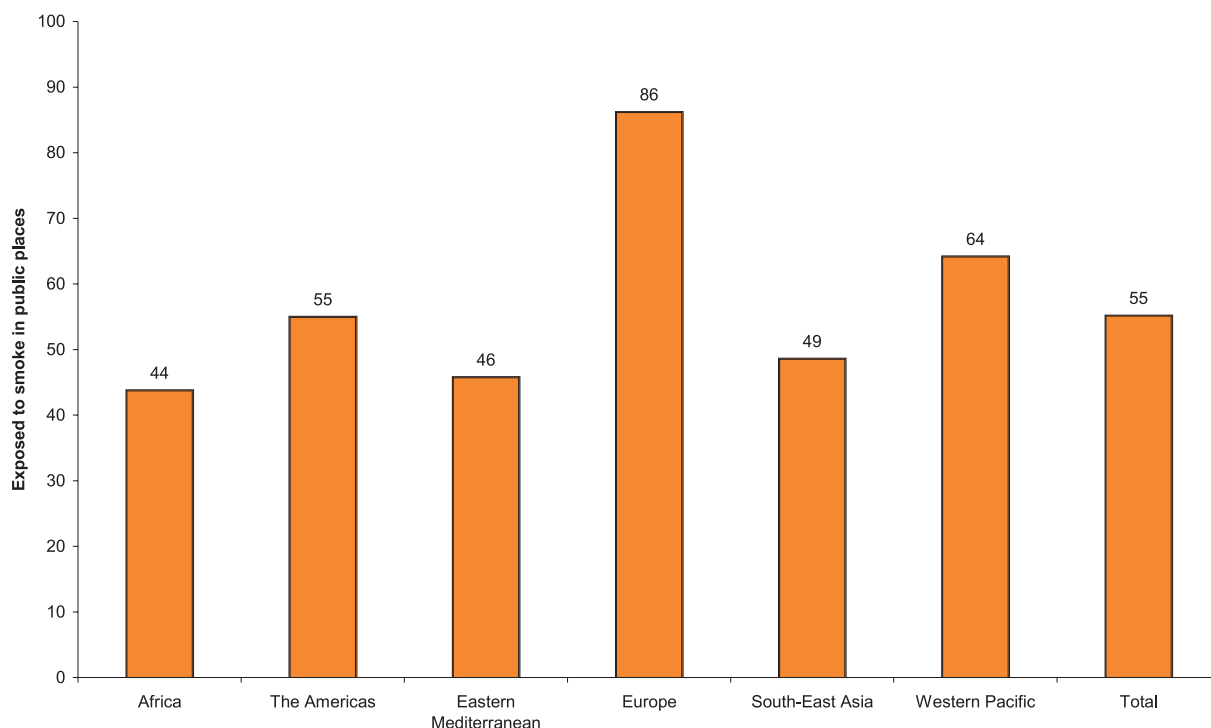
**Europe. Region A:** Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, San Marino, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom; **Region B:** Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Poland, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Tajikistan, Former Yugoslav Republic of The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan; **Region C:** Belarus, Estonia, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Republic of the Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Ukraine

**South-eastern Asia. Region B:** Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Thailand; **Region D:** Bangladesh, Bhutan, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, India, Maldives, Myanmar (Burma), Nepal, Timor-Leste

**Western Pacific. Region A:** Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Japan, New Zealand, Singapore; **Region B:** Cambodia, China, Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Mongolia, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Viet Nam

Regions are categorized as follows (WHO-approved classifications): A = very low child mortality and very low adult mortality; B = low child mortality and low adult mortality; C = low child mortality and high adult mortality; D = high child mortality and high adult mortality; E = high child mortality and very high adult mortality.

**Fig. 1.3 Average prevalence (in%) of exposure of 13–15 year old children to second-hand tobacco smoke in public places, by WHO region, 2007**



From [CDC \(2008\)](#)

Fig. 1.4 presents the range of exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke outside home by WHO region for boys and girls and for both sexes combined. There are wide variations in second-hand tobacco smoke exposure outside home within each region. The largest variations are observed in the African region and the Western Pacific region irrespective of sex. This is largely influenced by the presence of smoke-free legislation for public places in the countries, as well as levels of enforcement and public's compliance with these laws.

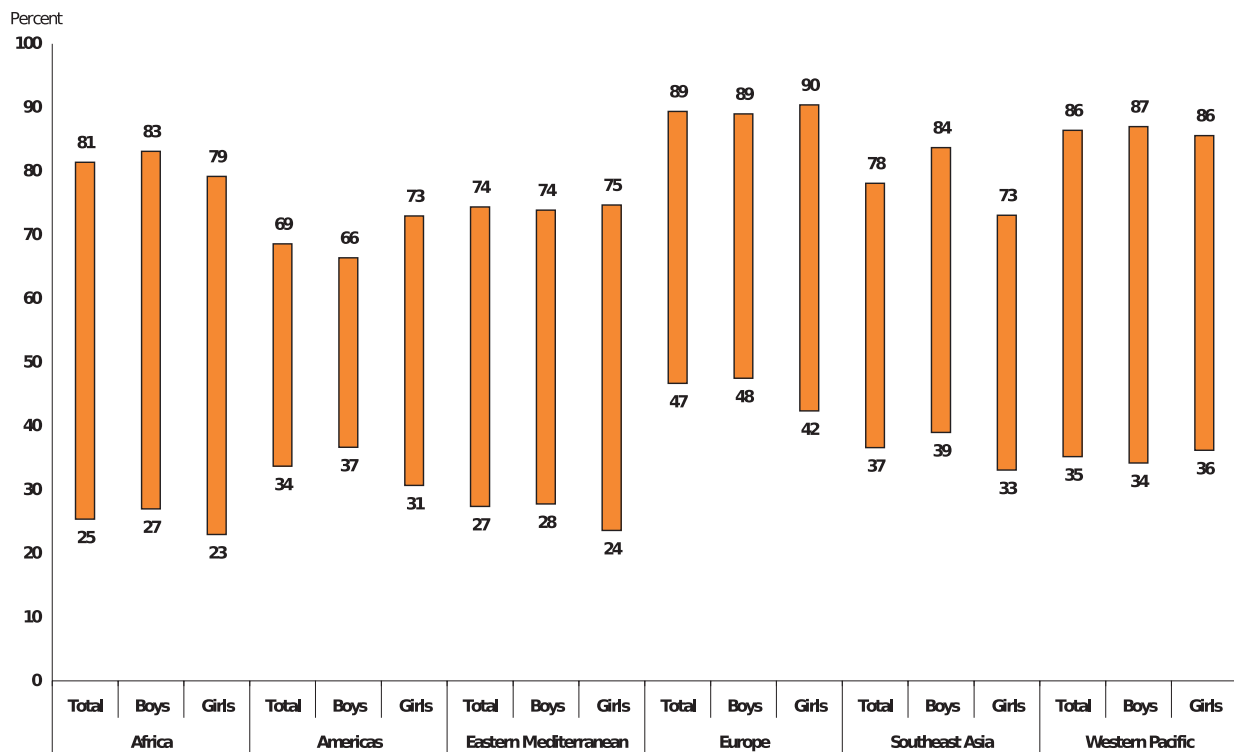
### 1.4.2. Exposure among adults

#### (a) Overview

While the GYTS offers a valuable global source for estimating exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke among children, there is no such extensive source of data for adults. Estimates of second-hand tobacco smoke exposure among adults have used the definitions of exposure based on having a spouse who smokes or exposure to tobacco smoke at work. For the countries lacking such data, exposure was estimated using a model based on smoking prevalence among men from the WHO Global InfoBase.

About one third of adults worldwide are regularly exposed to second-hand tobacco smoke ([Table 1.5](#)). The highest exposure was estimated in European Region C with 66% of the population

**Fig. 1.4 Range of prevalence (in%) of exposure of 13–15 year old children to second-hand tobacco smoke outside their home, by WHO region, 2009**



From [CDC/WHO \(2009\)](#)

being regularly exposed to second-hand tobacco smoke. The lowest regional exposure was estimated in the African region (4%). Differences between men and women were generally small, except in Eastern Mediterranean Region D and South East Asia Region B.

#### (b) Exposure at home

The Global Tobacco Surveillance System, through its adult household survey “Global Adult Tobacco Survey” (GATS), collects information on key tobacco control indicators including information on second-hand tobacco smoke exposure at home, at work and several public places ([WHO, 2009b](#)). GATS is a nationally representative survey conducted among persons aged  $\geq 15$  years using a standardized questionnaire, sample design, data

collection method, and analysis protocol. GATS results are available from 14 countries with a high tobacco burden. Additionally since 2008, The WHO STEPwise approach to surveillance (STEPS) surveys have started to collect information on exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke at home and at work, now available for 7 countries ([WHO, 2009c](#)).

In the 21 countries that have reported data on exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke, large numbers of people are exposed at home (Fig. 1.5). Exposure was highest in Sierra Leone (74%) and lowest in the British Virgin Islands (3%). Overall, differences between men and women were relatively small in most countries; in China, Cambodia and Mongolia, more women reported being exposed to second-hand tobacco smoke

**Table 1.5 Proportion of non-smoking adults exposed regularly to second-hand tobacco smoke, by WHO region (based on survey data and modeling)**

WHO Subregion	Exposure in men	Exposure in women
	(%)	(%)
Africa (D)	7	11
Africa (E)	4	9
The Americas (A)	16	16
The Americas (B)	13	21
The Americas (D)	15	18
Eastern Mediterranean (B)	24	22
Eastern Mediterranean (D)	21	34
Europe (A)	34	32
Europe (B)	52	53
Europe (C)	66	66
South-eastern Asia (B)	58	41
South-eastern Asia (D)	23	18
Western Pacific (A)	50	54
Western Pacific (B)	53	51
GLOBAL	33	31

From [WHO \(2010\)](#)

For the WHO subregional country grouping, see footnote of [Table 1.4](#).

in their homes then men. This lack of difference implies that even when prevalence of smoking among women is low, they are exposed to second-hand tobacco smoke at home as much as men.

### *(c) Exposure at the workplace*

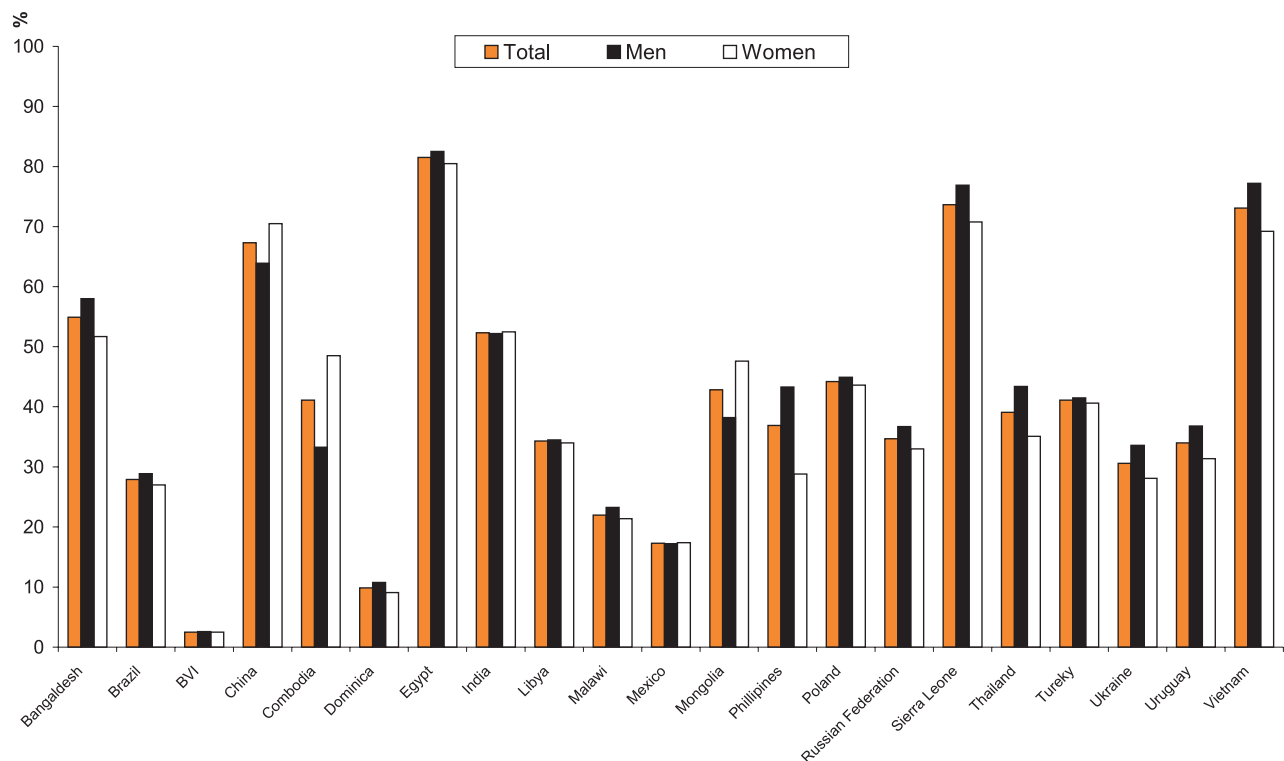
The same magnitude of second-hand tobacco smoke exposure at the workplace was reported as at home (Fig. 1.6). Exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke at the workplace was highest in Sierra Leone (74%) and lowest in the British Virgin Islands (3%). However, more men reported being exposed to others' smoke at their workplace as compared to women in all countries. This difference was most significant in Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and Bangladesh. These differences could be explained by the fact that women either tend to work in places where smoking is banned, such as education or health facilities, or work predominantly with other women.

## 1.5 Regulations

The World Health Organization's Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC) is a multilateral treaty with legally binding obligations for its 174 Parties (as of November 2011) ([WHO, 2003](#)). This comprehensive treaty contains supply and demand reduction measures available to countries to counter the tobacco epidemic. Article 8 of the Treaty specifically addresses the need for protection from second-hand tobacco smoke, and articulates the "adoption and implementation of effective legislative, executive, administrative and /or other measures" by Parties to the Convention to this effect. Guidelines to Article 8 specify key elements needed in legislation to help countries meet the highest standards of protection from second-hand tobacco smoke and provide a clear timeline for Parties to adopt appropriate measures (within five years after entry into Force of the WHO FCTC) ([WHO, 2007](#)).



**Fig. 1.5 Prevalence of adults exposed to second-hand tobacco smoke in their homes, in the countries that completed the Global Adult Tobacco Survey (GATS) and WHO STEPwise approach to surveillance (STEPS) surveys, 2008–2009**



From [WHO \(2009b, c\)](#)

GATS defines second-hand tobacco smoke exposure at home as reporting that smoking inside their home occurs daily, weekly, or monthly. STEPS defines second-hand tobacco smoke exposure at home as reporting exposure in the home on one or more days in the past 7 days.

All countries, regardless of their FCTC ratification status, are taking steps to reduce second-hand tobacco smoke in public places, through either planning the steps to or implementing national smoke-free laws for public places or workplaces. In 2008, approximately 5% of the world's population (354 million) had national smoke-free laws. Fig. 1.7 provides details on the number of public places with national smoke-free legislation for all WHO Member States.

As of December 2008, fifteen countries across the globe have legislation that provide the highest level of protection against second-hand tobacco smoke exposure. These include: Albania, Australia, Bhutan, Canada, Colombia, Guatemala, Islamic Republic of Iran, Ireland,

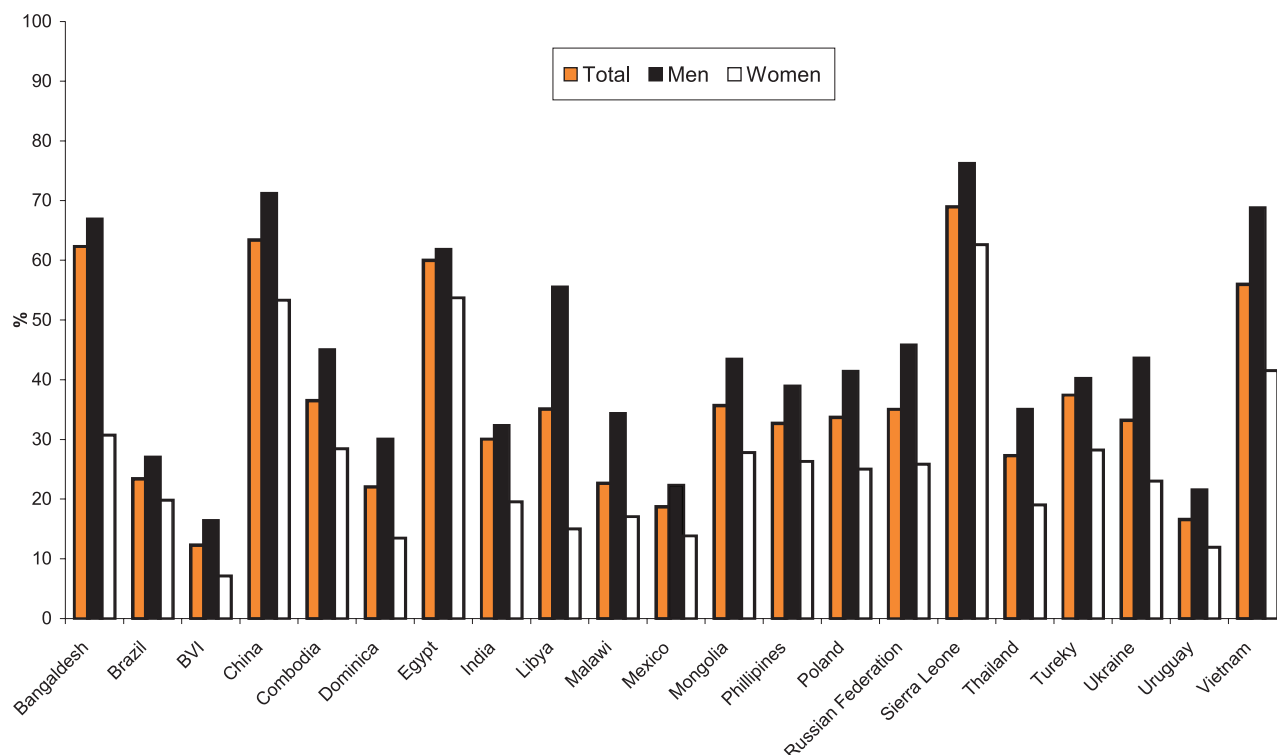
Marshall Islands, New Zealand, Panama, Turkey, Turkmenistan, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Uruguay.

## 2 Cancer in Humans

### 2.1 Cancer of the lung

More than 50 epidemiological studies since 1981 have examined the association between second-hand tobacco smoke and lung cancer resulting in the conclusion that exposure of non-smokers to second-hand tobacco smoke is causally associated with lung cancer risk ([IARC, 2004](#)). Many studies previously

**Fig. 1.6 Prevalence of adults exposed to second-hand tobacco smoke in their workplaces, in the countries that completed the Global Adult Tobacco Survey and WHO STEPwise approach to surveillance (STEPS) surveys, 2008–2009**



GATS defines second-hand tobacco smoke exposure at work as indoor workers who were exposed at work in the past 30 days.

STEPS defines second-hand tobacco smoke exposure at work as reporting exposure in the workplace on one or more days in the past 7 days

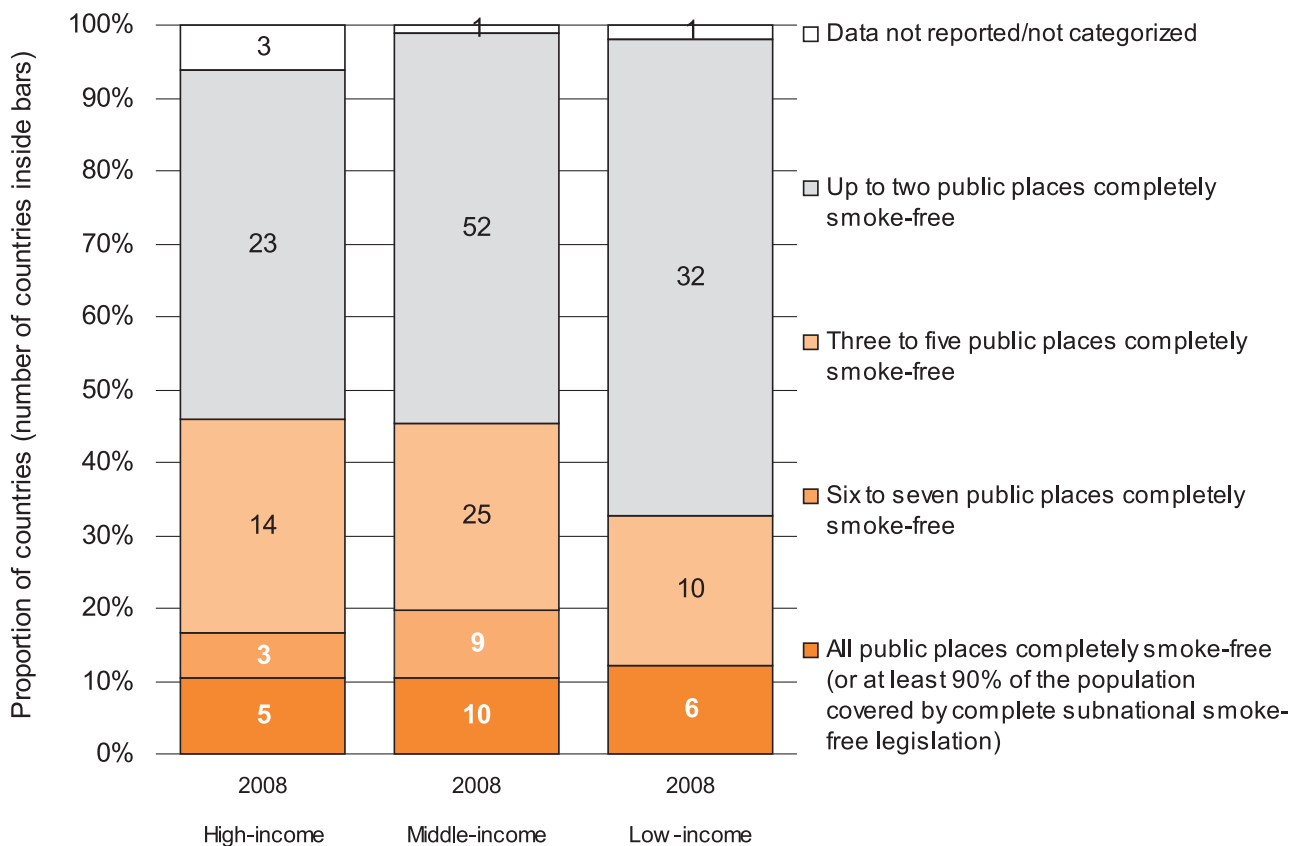
From [WHO \(2009b, c\)](#)

available assessed the lung cancer risk among the nonsmoking spouses of smokers since it is one of the sources of adult exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke that is less likely to be subject to exposure misclassification or other bias. Several important new, cohort, case-control studies and meta-analyses have been published since 2004 that provide additional evidence confirming the causal association (Table 2.1 available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-02-Table2.1.pdf>, Table 2.2 available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-02-Table2.2.pdf>, and Table 2.3 available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-02-Table2.3.pdf>). These new studies also expand our assessment of

the effect of second-hand tobacco smoke in the workplace allowing for more refined estimates of lung cancer risk. Preliminary data also suggest significant interactions between several genetic polymorphisms, second-hand tobacco smoke and lung cancer risk.

In a meta-analysis of 55 studies, including 7 cohort, 25 population based case-control studies and 23 hospital based case-control studies the pooled relative risk (RR) for lung cancer for never smoking women exposed to second-hand tobacco smoke from spouses was 1.27 (95%CI: 1.17–1.37). The relative risk for studies in North America was 1.15 (95%CI: 1.03–1.28), in Asia 1.31 (95%CI: 1.16–1.48) and Europe 1.31 (1.24–1.52) ([Taylor et al., 2007](#)).

**Fig. 1.7 Number and percentage of countries with number of public places covered by smoke free legislations, by income status (as of 31 December 2008)**



From [WHO \(2009a\)](#)

In a meta-analysis of 22 studies that assessed the effect of second-hand tobacco smoke exposures at work, the relative risk for lung cancer among exposed non-smokers was 1.24 (95%CI: 1.18–1.29) and among those workers classified as highly exposed to second-hand tobacco smoke at work 2.01 (95%CI: 1.33–2.60) compared to those with no exposure at work ([Stayner et al., 2007](#)).

In a large cohort study conducted in 10 European countries (European Prospective Investigation into Cancer and Nutrition, EPIC), it was estimated that the hazard ratio (HR) for lung cancer risk from second-hand tobacco smoke exposure at home and/or at work for never smokers and ex-smokers (at least 10 years)

was 1.34 (0.85–2.13) ([Vineis et al., 2007a](#)). The main component of this risk was attributable to exposure at the workplace, resulting in a hazard ratio of 1.65 (1.04–2.63). The overall hazard ratio between childhood exposure and the risk of lung cancer in adulthood was 2.00 (0.94–4.28); among children with daily exposure for many hours each day the hazard ratio was 3.63 (1.19–11.12). In a separate analysis of workplace exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke in this cohort women were observed to have a lung cancer hazard ratio of 2.13 (1.6–3.4) ([Veglia et al., 2007](#)).

In a large population-based cohort study conducted in Japan, findings confirmed that exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke is

a risk factor for lung cancer among Japanese women ([Kurahashi et al., 2008](#)). Compared with women married to never smokers, the hazard ratio for all lung cancer incidence was 1.34 (95%CI:0.81–2.21) and for adenocarcinoma 2.03 (95%CI:1.07–3.86). For adenocarcinoma dose–response relationships were seen for both intensity ( $P$  for trend = 0.02) and total amount ( $P$  for trend = 0.03) of the husband’s smoking. Exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke at the workplace also increased the risk of lung cancer (HR, 1.32; 95%CI: 0.85–2.04).

Data from a cohort study of women from Shanghai, China also found that exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke is associated with lung cancer mortality. Exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke at work was associated with a significantly increased mortality to lung cancer (HR 1.79, 95%CI: 1.09–2.93) but the risk was not significant for exposure to husband’s second-hand tobacco smoke (HR 1.09, 95%CI: 0.74–1.61) ([Wen et al., 2006](#)). In a case–control study of lung cancer among lifetime non-smoking Chinese men living in Hong Kong Special Administrative Region a non-significant association between all lung cancer and ever being exposed to household and/or workplace second-hand tobacco smoke was observed (OR, 1.11, 95%CI: 0.74–1.67) but a significant increase was observed for adenocarcinoma (OR, 1.68, 95%CI: 1.00–2.38) ([Tse et al., 2009](#)).

In a long-term case–control study of lung cancer cases at the Massachusetts General Hospital, study participants exposed to second-hand tobacco smoke at work and at leisure were at a significantly greater risk (OR, 1.30, 95%CI: 1.08–1.57) if the exposure occurred between birth and 25 years of age. If the exposures occurred after the age of 25 years the risk was not elevated (OR, 0.66, 95%CI: 0.21–1.57) but the confidence limits are wide for this subgroup analysis ([Asomaning et al., 2008](#)).

In two other cohort studies, one conducted in California ([Enstrom & Kabat, 2003](#)) and

another in New Zealand ([Hill et al., 2007](#)) no excess risk was observed among lifelong non-smokers exposed to second-hand tobacco smoke. In the California study the relative risk was 0.99 (95%CI: 0.72–1.37) based on 126 lung cancer cases. [The confidence intervals in this study are relatively wide and they include the current IARC estimate of lung cancer risk from second-hand tobacco smoke exposure. In addition the opportunity for substantial misclassification of second-hand tobacco smoke exposure is great because exposures outside the home were not assessed and the second-hand tobacco smoke exposures were not re-evaluated after enrollment into the study.] [Hill et al. \(2007\)](#) observed no association between second-hand tobacco smoke exposure in a census enumeration of current second-hand tobacco smoke exposure at home and linkage to cancer registries three years later. The authors suggest that this may be a result of either the misclassification of total second-hand tobacco smoke exposure since exposures outside the home were not assessed and/or the fact that a 3-year follow-up after exposure ascertainment may have been too short to capture important exposures before the diagnosis of lung cancer.

One case–control study ([Wenzlaff et al., 2005](#)) and one case-only study ([Bonner et al., 2006](#)) assessed lung cancer risk associated with second-hand tobacco smoke exposure and several polymorphisms. In the case–control study, individuals were stratified by household second-hand tobacco smoke exposure (yes/no), those with *CYP1B1* *Leu*<sup>432</sup>*Val* genotype alone or in combination with Phase II enzyme polymorphisms were more strongly associated with lung cancer risk if they also were exposed to at least some household second-hand tobacco smoke exposure compared to those that had no exposure. In the case-only study a significant interaction was observed between lung cancer risk, second-hand tobacco smoke and a GSTM1 (null) genotype (OR, 2.28, 95%CI:1.15–4.51).

## 2.2 Cancer of the breast

### 2.2.1 Overview of studies

The relationship between exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke and breast cancer has been comprehensively reviewed in the peer reviewed literature ([Johnson, 2005](#); [Miller \*et al.\*, 2007](#)) and in reports from national and international committees ([IARC, 2004, 2009](#); [California Environmental Protection Agency, 2005](#); [US. Department of Health and Human Services, 2006](#); [Collishaw \*et al.\*, 2009](#)). These reviews have drawn different conclusions. [IARC \(2004\)](#) characterized the evidence as “inconsistent,” based on studies published or in press by June, 2002. A US Surgeon General Report (2006) concluded that the evidence was “suggestive but not sufficient” to infer a causal relationship between second-hand tobacco smoke and breast cancer, whereas reviews by the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) in 2005 and by a panel of researchers in this area convened in Canada ([Collishaw \*et al.\*, 2009](#)) designated the evidence for second-hand tobacco smoke as “consistent with a causal association in younger primarily premenopausal women.”

A total of 16 new studies have been published since the previous *IARC Monograph* ([IARC, 2004](#)). These include three cohort studies ([Reynolds \*et al.\*, 2004](#); [Hanaoka \*et al.\*, 2005](#); [Pirie \*et al.\*, 2008](#)) (Table 2.4 available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-02-Table2.4.pdf>), and 13 new case-control studies ([Lash & Aschengrau, 2002](#); [Alberg \*et al.\*, 2004](#); [Gammon \*et al.\*, 2004](#); [Shrubsole \*et al.\*, 2004](#); [Bonner \*et al.\*, 2005](#); [Sillanpää \*et al.\*, 2005](#); [Lissowska \*et al.\*, 2006](#); [Mechanic \*et al.\*, 2006](#); [Roddam \*et al.\*, 2007](#); [Rollison \*et al.\*, 2008](#); [Slattery \*et al.\*, 2008](#); [Ahern \*et al.\*, 2009](#); [Young \*et al.\*, 2009](#)) (Table 2.5 available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-02-Table2.5.pdf>). Table 2.5 also presents two case-control studies not discussed previously

([Zhao \*et al.\*, 1999](#); [Liu \*et al.\*, 2000](#)). Several meta-analyses have also been published as new data became available ([California Environmental Protection Agency, 2005](#); [Johnson, 2005](#); [US. Department of Health and Human Services, 2006](#); [Pirie \*et al.\*, 2008](#); [IARC, 2009](#)).

The largest of the cohort studies, identified 2518 incident breast cancers among 224917 never smokers followed for an average of 3.5 years in the British Million Women Study ([Pirie \*et al.\*, 2008](#)). The cohort was drawn from women, age 50–64 years, participating in mammography screening programmes. Nearly all cases were post-menopausal and the overall analyses pertain to postmenopausal breast cancer. No relationship was observed between breast cancer risk and smoking by a parent at the time of birth and/or age 10 years (HR, 0.98; 95%CI: 0.88–1.08); the results were also null for smoking by a current partner (HR, 1.02; 95%CI: 0.89–1.16) or exposure to the combination of parental and spousal smoking (HR, 1.03; 95%CI: 0.90–1.19). [Pirie \*et al.\* \(2008\)](#) also present a meta-analysis of studies of second-hand smoke and breast cancer risk, separating studies by cohort or case-control design. No overall association was observed in the cohort studies. These largely represent post-menopausal breast cancer, so the analysis was not stratified by menopausal status. An overall association was seen in the case-control studies, similar to the findings of other meta-analyses ([California Environmental Protection Agency, 2005](#); [US. Department of Health and Human Services, 2006](#); [IARC, 2009](#)). [[Pirie \*et al.\* \(2008\)](#) focus on the discrepancy between the cohort and case-control results and propose that the associations observed in early case-control studies can likely be explained by recall bias. The study has been criticized for the lack of information on occupational exposures to second-hand smoke ([Collishaw \*et al.\*, 2009](#)).]

A second large cohort study ([Reynolds \*et al.\*, 2004](#)) identified 1998 women diagnosed with breast cancer during five years of follow-up of the



California Teachers Study. Analyses were based on 433 women with pre/peri-menopausal breast cancer and 1361 women with postmenopausal breast cancer. No association was observed between post-menopausal breast cancer and residential exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke in childhood or adulthood. No association was initially reported with pre/peri-menopausal breast cancer in analyses based on menopausal status at enrollment (RR 0.93, 95%CI: 0.71–1.22). When menopausal status was defined by age at diagnosis rather than by age at enrollment, the hazard ratio for premenopausal breast cancer among women exposed in both childhood and adulthood increased to 1.27 (95%CI: 0.84–1.92) ([Reynolds et al., 2006](#)).

[Hanaoka et al. \(2005\)](#) identified 162 incident breast cancer cases during a nine-year follow-up of 20169 Japanese women, age 40–59 years, who reported no history of active smoking when enrolled in the Japan Public Health Center (JPHC) study in 1990. Nearly three quarters (72%) of the women reported exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke. About half of the women were premenopausal when enrolled in the study, although there were only nine unexposed cases among the pre-menopausal women. The multivariate-adjusted relative risk for breast cancer among all exposed women irrespective of menopausal status was 1.1 (95%CI: 0.8–1.6) compared to those classified as unexposed. The corresponding relative risks for women who were pre- or postmenopausal at baseline were 2.6 (95%CI: 1.3–5.2) and 0.7 (95%CI: 0.4–1.0), respectively.

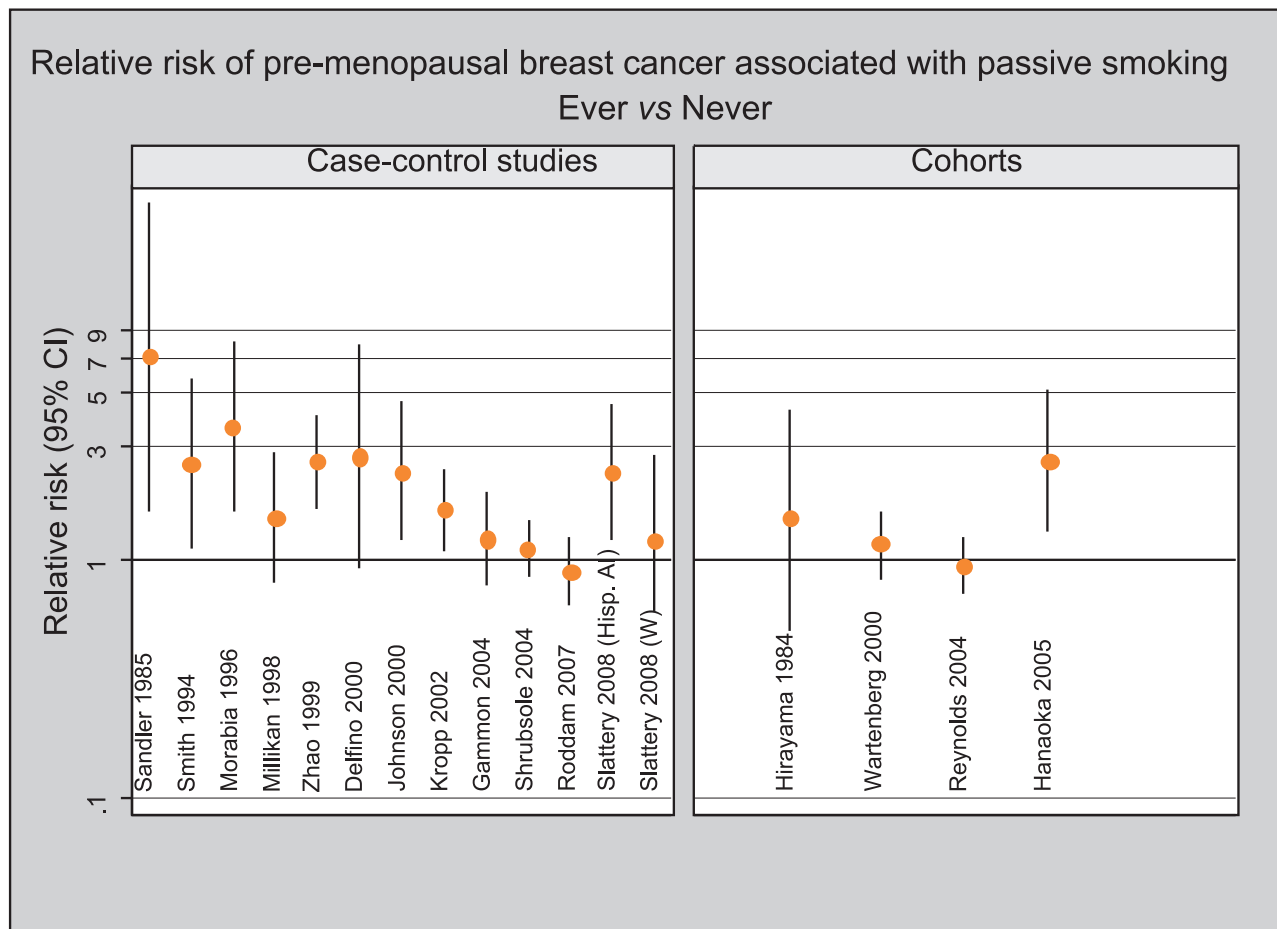
Six of the 13 new population-based case-control studies included more than 1000 cases each ([Shrubsole et al., 2004](#); [Bonner et al., 2005](#); [Lissowska et al., 2006](#); [Mechanic et al., 2006](#); [Slattery et al., 2008](#); [Young et al., 2009](#); Table 2.5 on-line). None of these 13 studies showed an overall increase in breast cancer risk associated with second-hand tobacco smoke exposure in Caucasians. The incidence of premenopausal breast cancer was associated with one or more

indices of second-hand tobacco smoke exposure in all four studies that stratified the results by menopausal status ([Gammon et al., 2004](#); [Shrubsole et al., 2004](#); [Bonner et al., 2005](#); [Slattery et al., 2008](#)) although the association was not always statistically significant ([Gammon et al., 2004](#); [Bonner et al., 2005](#); Fig. 2.1). Associations were also reported between second-hand tobacco smoke exposure and overall breast cancer risk in African Americans ([Mechanic et al., 2006](#)) and with premenopausal breast cancer in Hispanics/American Indians ([Slattery et al., 2008](#)). The associations observed in these case-control studies are generally weaker than those reported in earlier case-control studies. Whereas the relative risk estimates reported in the earlier studies often equalled or exceeded 2.0 ([Sandler et al., 1985a](#); [Lash & Aschengrau, 1999](#); [Zhao et al., 1999](#); [Johnson & Repace, 2000](#); [Liu et al., 2000](#)) or 3.0 ([Smith et al., 1984](#); [Morabia et al., 1996](#); [Liu et al., 2000](#); [Morabia et al., 2000](#)), the estimates in the later studies were mostly under 1.5, even in studies that reported positive associations.

### 2.2.2 Issues affecting the interpretation of studies

One important consideration in evaluating these data has been the lack of a strong and convincing relationship between active smoking and breast cancer. Several theories have been advanced to explain why second-hand tobacco smoke might have a stronger effect on breast cancer than active smoking ([California Environmental Protection Agency, 2005](#); [Johnson, 2005](#); [Collishaw et al., 2009](#)). Central to these is the hypothesis that active smoking may have counterbalancing protective and detrimental effects on breast cancer risk that, in combination, produce little or no overall association, whereas second-hand tobacco smoke may have only an adverse effect on risk. The weakness of this theory is that there is little direct evidence (see Section 4) identifying the

**Fig. 2.1 Relative risk of pre-menopausal breast cancer associated with second-hand tobacco smoke. Ever versus never.**



Study sorted by calendar year

mechanism by which active smoking may cause the proposed [protective] antiestrogenic effects. Without knowing the mechanism, it has been impossible to prove that active smoking has this effect but exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke does not. A second hypothesis that has been advanced is that second-hand tobacco smoke may have a greater effect on pre- than on postmenopausal breast cancer. This theory was proposed by CalEPA in 2005 ([Johnson & Glantz, 2008](#)) based on analyses of studies available at the time, and was subsequently questioned by some ([US. Department of Health and Human](#)

[Services, 2006](#)) but not all ([Collishaw \*et al.\*, 2009](#)) subsequent reviews. [Because this arose as an a posteriori observation rather than as an a priori hypothesis, it must be confirmed by independent studies.] The strongest support for the hypothesis comes from a cohort study in Japan ([Hanaoka \*et al.\*, 2005](#)), which reported significantly increased risk (RR 2.6, 95%CI: 1.3–5.2) of premenopausal breast cancer in women who previously reported having ever lived with a regular smoker or ever being exposed to second-hand tobacco smoke for at least one hour per day in settings outside the home. However, the

referent group in this analysis included only nine unexposed cases. No associations were observed with post-menopausal breast cancer. A weak association between second-hand tobacco smoke exposure and premenopausal breast cancer was reported in the California Teachers cohort, when menopausal status was defined by age at diagnosis rather than age at entry into the study ([Reynolds et al., 2006](#)). In case-control studies published since the CalEPA review ([California Environmental Protection Agency, 2005](#)) that reported results stratified by menopausal status, [Bonner et al. \(2005\)](#) and [Slattery et al. \(2008\)](#) reported stronger associations with pre- than with post-menopausal breast cancer, although the only statistically significant association with premenopausal breast cancer was in Hispanic or American Indian women who had second-hand tobacco smoke exposure of more than ten hours per week (OR, 2.3, 95%CI:1.2–4.5) ([Slattery et al., 2008](#)). In a case-control study of breast cancer in women age 36–45 years [Roddam et al. \(2007\)](#) observed no increased risk in premenopausal women who, since age 16, were married to or lived with a boyfriend who smoked for at least one year.

Two other explanations for inconsistencies in the evidence relate to the fundamental design differences between cohort and case-control studies. A critical advantage of cohort studies is that they collect information on exposures before the disease of interest is diagnosed, thus preventing knowledge of disease status influencing how participants recall and/or report their exposures. Recall bias is especially challenging in case-control studies of exposures that are difficult to measure, when recollection of the frequency and intensity of exposure is necessarily subjective. In counterpart, an important advantage of case-control studies is that they can collect more detailed information on the exposure of interest than is usually possible in cohort studies. Together, these factors create what has been described as “a tension” between the potential for

recall or selection bias in case-control studies, and the reduced possibility of collecting full “lifetime exposure histories” in cohort studies ([Collishaw et al., 2009](#)). The discrepancy in the results from case-control and cohort studies is seen especially in the earlier case-control studies, which found much stronger associations than those observed in most recent studies. Five studies in particular ([Smith et al., 1984](#); [Morabia et al., 1996](#); [Zhao et al., 1999](#); [Johnson & Repace, 2000](#); [Kropp & Chang-Claude, 2002](#)) were considered by [Collishaw et al. \(2009\)](#) as having the most complete information on lifetime exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke from all sources. At the same time, these studies are among the most susceptible to recall bias for two reasons. The first is a general problem of case-control studies, in that cases are more likely to remember and report potentially hazardous exposures than controls. Second, recall bias is potentially more problematic when subjective considerations can influence reporting. It is easier to report smoking by a parent or spouse than it is to remember exposures from other sources that possibly occurred many years ago in daily life. Exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke was highly prevalent in the decades following World War II in Europe and North America. It would be unusual for someone not to be exposed. The studies that the [California Environmental Protection Agency \(2005\)](#) considered to have the best information on exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke are also those which rely more heavily on recall of past exposures outside the home. Moreover, inclusion in the referent group in these studies is also vulnerable to recall bias. Previous reviews by [IARC \(2004\)](#) and the US Surgeon General ([US Department of Health and Human Services, 2006](#)) have expressed concern about potential biases that may be introduced by relying on a small and unusual subgroup (the unexposed to active smoking and second-hand tobacco smoke) as the referent category in these studies. Recall bias remains a plausible explanation for why the

association with second-hand tobacco smoke is stronger in studies that collect “lifetime exposure histories” than in those that rely on parental or spousal smoking. In addition, publication bias cannot be ruled out because the reporting of association limited by subgroup (pre-menopausal) could have been selective.

[The Working Group noted that adjustment for potential confounders using the questionnaire data on other established risk factors for breast cancer did not eliminate the association with second-hand tobacco smoke in these studies. However, this does not resolve concerns about the possibility of recall or publication bias.]

Several meta-analyses have been published, largely showing similar results but leading to substantially different interpretations of the evidence ([California Environmental Protection Agency, 2005](#); [US Department of Health and Human Services, 2006](#); [Johnson, 2007](#); [IARC, 2009](#)). The [California Environmental Protection Agency \(2005\)](#) calculated a pooled estimate for second-hand tobacco smoke and breast cancer risk of 1.11 (95%CI: 1.04–1.19) in all women and 1.38 (95%CI: 1.21–1.56) in premenopausal women, based on 19 studies and a fixed effects model. These estimates increased to 1.89 (95%CI: 1.57–2.27) for all women and 2.18 (95%CI: 1.70–2.79) in premenopausal women when the analysis was restricted to the subset of studies considered to have the best exposure data.

Based on these analyses, the [California Environmental Protection Agency \(2005\)](#) and [Collishaw et al. \(2009\)](#) emphasized the positive association with premenopausal breast cancer in their conclusion that the evidence is “consistent with a causal relationship” whereas the US Surgeon General ([US Department of Health and Human Services, 2006](#)) was more cautious in characterizing the evidence as “suggestive but not sufficient.”

[The Working Group noted that the criterion used by IARC specifies “sufficient evidence of carcinogenicity in which chance, bias and

confounding could be ruled out with reasonable confidence.” This is a more stringent definition than “consistent with a causal relationship.”]

## 2.3 Cancers of the upper aerodigestive tract

### 2.3.1 Upper aerodigestive tract combined

Cancers of the upper aerodigestive tract traditionally comprise cancers of the oral cavity, pharynx, larynx and oesophagus. However, some epidemiological studies have examined only head and neck cancers restricted to tumours of the oral cavity, pharynx and larynx. Four case-control studies ([Tan et al., 1997](#); [Zhang et al., 2000](#); [Lee et al., 2008](#); [Ramroth et al., 2008](#)) assessed the effects of second-hand tobacco smoke on head and neck cancers combined and separately for oral cavity, oropharynx or larynx cancers (Table 2.6 available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-02-Table2.6.pdf>).

In a hospital-based case-control study in the USA, including only non smoking cases and controls, [Tan et al. \(1997\)](#) detected high risk of head and neck cancer among those ever exposed to second-hand tobacco smoke at home or at work. Women presented higher risk at home (OR, 7.3;  $P < 0.001$ ) than men (OR, 1.1;  $P < 0.79$ ). On the other hand, men showed higher risk at work (OR, 11.6;  $P < 0.001$ ) than women (OR, 8.9;  $P < 0.002$ ). [The authors did not provide the percentages of the telephone interviews done with the spouses of cases and controls. Probably, this is the main weakness of this study and differential misclassification of exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke could not be excluded. The analysis was performed without adjustment for potential confounding variables.] In a study in the USA, [Zhang et al. \(2000\)](#) observed an increased risk (OR, 2.4; 95%CI: 0.9–6.8) with lifetime second-hand tobacco smoke exposure (ever/never) for head and neck cancers, adjusted for age, sex, ethnicity, education, alcohol drinking,



pack-years of cigarette smoking, and marijuana consumption.

[Lee et al. \(2008\)](#) pooled the data from several studies including cases of head and neck cancers and controls (population and hospital) from central Europe, Latin America and United States. Two groups were examined separately, never tobacco users and never tobacco and alcohol users. Among never tobacco users, no association was observed between ever exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke at home or at work and the risk for head and neck cancers. Among never tobacco and alcohol users, a non-statistically significant risk (OR 1.30; 95%CI: 0.94–1.81) was observed. When considering specific anatomical sites, only laryngeal cancer risk was increased when ever exposed to second-hand tobacco smoke in a lifetime, detected among never tobacco users (OR, 1.71; 95%CI: 0.98–3.00) and among never tobacco and alcohol users (OR, 2.90; 95%CI: 1.09–7.73).

In Germany, in a population-based case-control study on laryngeal cancer, [Ramroth et al. \(2008\)](#) observed a non-statistically significant risk (OR, 2.0; 95%CI: 0.39–10.7) for exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke (ever/never) at home and in workplaces among nonsmokers.

#### (a) Evidence of a dose-response

[Zhang et al. \(2000\)](#) observed a dose-response relationship with the intensity of exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke (never, moderate and heavy) on head and neck cancers ( $P = 0.025$ ); those at heavy level of exposure at home or at work showed highest risk for head and neck cancer (OR, 3.6; 95%CI: 1.1–11.5). However, the classification of exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke at work as never, occasionally or regularly did not show any dose-response effect; and the risk for the groups of occasionally or regularly exposed at home were similar and non statistically significant.

[Lee et al. \(2008\)](#) explored the intensity and duration of exposure to second-hand tobacco

smoke. For intensity the number of hours of exposure per day was considered at home (0–3 hours, > 3 hours) or at the workplace (never, 1–3 hours and > 3 hours). Among both groups of never tobacco users and never tobacco and alcohol users non-statistically significant risks of head and neck cancers were observed for those exposed for > 3 hours per day at home or at work. For duration the number of years of exposure at home and at work was considered (never, 1–15 years, and > 15 years). Among never tobacco users, there was a trend of increase in risk for head and neck cancers with greater number of years of exposure at home, but not at work. Among never tobacco and alcohol users, the duration of exposure showed a trend for exposure both at work or at home.

Considering specific anatomical sites, for cancer of the oral cavity no dose-response effect was observed with increasing number of years of exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke at home or at work. For cancer of the pharynx, a dose-response effect was observed with increasing number of years of exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke with only at home, in both never tobacco users and never tobacco and alcohol users. For cancer of the larynx, a dose-response effect was noted with increasing number of years of exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke at home among never tobacco users and at work among never tobacco and alcohol users. Among never tobacco and alcohol users, all the odd ratios (OR) were statistically significantly elevated for > 15 years of exposure at home or at work for head and neck cancers overall and separately for cancer of the pharynx, and only at work for cancer of the larynx.

#### 2.3.2 Cancers of the nasopharynx, and nasal cavity and sinonasal cavity

The relationship between exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke and risk for these rare cancers of the upper respiratory tract has



been examined in one cohort study ([Hirayama, 1984](#); Table 2.7 available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-02-Table2.7.pdf>) and five case–controls studies ([Fukuda & Shibata, 1990](#); [Yu \*et al.\*, 1990](#); [Zheng \*et al.\*, 1993](#); [Cheng \*et al.\*, 1999](#); [Yuan \*et al.\*, 2000](#); Table 2.6 on-line). A positive association was found in most of these studies.

[Hirayama \(1984\)](#) found an increased risk of sinonasal cancer in women (histology not noted) associated with increasing numbers of cigarettes smoked by husbands of nonsmoking women. When compared with nonsmoking women married to nonsmokers, wives whose husbands smoked had a relative risk of 1.7 (95%CI: 0.7–4.2) for 1–14 cigarettes per day, 2.0 (95%CI: 0.6–6.3) for 15–19 cigarettes per day and 2.55 (95%CI: 1.0–6.3) for  $\geq 20$  cigarettes per day ( $P$  for trend = 0.03).

[Fukuda & Shibata \(1990\)](#) reported the results of a Japanese case–control study based on 169 cases of squamous-cell carcinoma of the maxillary sinus and 338 controls matched on sex, age and residence in Hokkaido, Japan. Among nonsmoking women, a relative risk of 5.4 ( $P < 0.05$ ) was associated with exposure in the household to second-hand tobacco smoke from one or more smokers. Active smoking was associated with an increased risk for squamous-cell carcinoma of the maxillary sinus in men in the same study.

[Zheng \*et al.\* \(1993\)](#) used data from the 1986 US National Mortality Followback Survey to assess risk for cancer of the nasal cavity and sinuses in relation to exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke in white men. A total of 147 deaths from cancer of the nasal cavity and sinuses was compared to 449 controls who had died from other causes (excluding any causes strongly linked to alcohol and/or tobacco use). Data were obtained from postal questionnaires completed by next-of-kins. Among nonsmokers, patients with nasal cancer were more likely to have a spouse who smoked cigarettes (RR, 3.0; 95%CI:

1.0–8.9) after adjustment for age and alcohol use. When the analysis of cases was restricted to those with cancer of the maxillary sinus, the risk was somewhat higher (RR 4.8; 95%CI: 0.9–24.7). The risks reported for active smoking and exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke were of similar magnitude in this study.

Neither second-hand tobacco smoke exposure during childhood nor exposure during adulthood were positively associated with an increased risk for nasopharyngeal cancer in a study in Taiwan, China ([Cheng \*et al.\*, 1999](#)). Although histological type was not specified, all cases were histologically confirmed. Among never-smokers, the risk estimates for cumulative exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke (pack-person-years) in childhood declined as exposure increased ( $P$  for trend = 0.05); a similar but non-significant inverse relationship was found for exposure during adulthood. Significant elevations in risk for nasopharyngeal cancer were observed for active smokers in this study. [The Working Group noted that the exposure assessment was relatively detailed and that the estimates of relative risk were adjusted for age, sex, education and family history of nasopharyngeal cancer.]

A large population-based case–control study conducted in Shanghai, China, included 935 cases of nasopharyngeal carcinoma and 1032 population controls randomly selected from a population-registry and frequency-matched by sex and 5-year age group ([Yuan \*et al.\*, 2000](#)). All cases were histologically confirmed, but the cell type was not specified. The study subjects were interviewed face to face, and the response rates were 84% for cases and 99% for controls. In female never-smokers, a consistent increase in risk related to exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke during childhood was noted. The relative risk was 3.4 (95%CI: 1.4–8.1) if the mother smoked; 3.0 (95%CI: 1.4–6.2) if the father smoked; 2.7 (95%CI: 1.1–6.9) if another household member smoked and 3.0 (95%CI: 1.4–6.2)

if any household member smoked. Risks associated with exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke during adulthood in women were also statistically significantly increased. For male never-smokers, the associations were weaker and were not statistically significantly elevated for exposure during childhood and adulthood. [The Working Group noted that this was a large, well conducted study that included a detailed exposure assessment and adjustment for numerous potential confounders.]

## 2.4 Leukaemia and lymphomas

[Kasim et al. \(2005\)](#) analysed the risk of leukaemia in adults after exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke (Table 2.8 available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-02-Table2.8.pdf>). This case-control study was based on postal questionnaires. There was a slightly increased risk ( $P$  for trend = 0.001) with increasing duration of exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke. The association was limited to chronic lymphocytic leukaemia and was stronger for occupational exposures to second-hand tobacco smoke.

## 2.5 Other cancers in adults

### 2.5.1 All cancer combined

[Hirayama \(1984\)](#), [Sandler et al. \(1985b\)](#), and [Miller \(1990\)](#) observed a significant association between exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke and overall cancer incidence or mortality. [Nishino et al. \(2001\)](#) also studied all cancers combined and reported a relative risk of 1.1 (95%CI: 0.92–1.4) associated with husband's smoking.

### 2.5.2 Cancers of the gastrointestinal tract

In addition to the studies reviewed previously ([Sandler et al. 1988](#); [Gerhardsson de Verdier et al., 1992](#); [Mao et al., 2002](#)), ten new studies

have been identified: two cohort ([Nishino et al., 2001](#); [Hooker et al., 2008](#); Table 2.13 available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-02-Table2.13.pdf>); seven case-control ([Sandler et al., 1985a, b](#); [Slattery et al., 2003](#); [Lilla et al., 2006](#); [Wang et al., 2006](#); [Duan et al., 2009](#); [Verla-Tebit et al., 2009](#); Table 2.14 available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-02-Table2.14.pdf>) and one case-only study ([Peppone et al., 2008](#); Table 2.15 available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-02-Table2.15.pdf>). Two studies ([Sandler et al., 1985a](#); [Wang et al., 2006](#)) did not provide risk estimates of gastrointestinal cancers for never smokers and are not discussed further. [No data for these studies are included in the tables.]

[Sandler et al. \(1985b\)](#) observed a relative risk of 0.7 and 1.3 for cancer of the digestive system from exposure to maternal and paternal passive smoke, respectively. [No CIs were provided and the numbers of never smokers exposed were small.] [Verla-Tebit et al. \(2009\)](#) found no evidence of an increased risk for colorectal cancer associated with exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke overall.

#### (a) Cancer of the colorectum

[Nishino et al. \(2001\)](#) observed no association with husband's smoking for cancer of the colon (RR 1.3; CI: 0.65–2.4) or of the rectum (RR 1.8; 0.85–3.9).

Four studies investigated risk for cancer of the colon and/or rectum by sex. [Sandler et al. \(1988\)](#) reported an increased risk for colorectal cancer in men (RR 3.0; 95%CI: 1.8–5.0) but a protective effect in women (RR 0.7; 95%CI: 0.6–1.0). [Slattery et al. \(2003\)](#) noted that rectal cancer was significantly associated with exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke in men (OR, 1.5; 95%CI: 1.1–2.2 for never smokers) but not in women. [Hooker et al. \(2008\)](#) reported an effect among men only, with a significantly increased risk for rectal cancer in the 1963 cohort (RR 5.8, 95%CI: 1.8–18.4) but not

the 1975 cohort. [Gerhardsson de Verdier et al. \(1992\)](#) found an increased risk for rectal cancer in men (RR 1.9; 95%CI: 1.0–3) and for colon cancer in women (RR 1.8; 95%CI: 1.2–2.8). [The Working Group noted that it is unclear whether the analysis was restricted to never-smokers.]

When analysing different sources of exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke, [Verla-Tebit et al. \(2009\)](#) found no evidence of an increased risk for cancer of the colorectum associated with exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke specifically during childhood or at work, but observed a significant increase in risk associated with spousal exposure.

[Peppone et al. \(2008\)](#) noted that considerable exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke, especially during childhood, was more likely to lead to an earlier-age diagnosis of cancer of the colorectum.

In exploring the association of cancer of the colorectum with exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke and NAT1 and NAT2 status, [Lilla et al. \(2006\)](#) noted that risk may only be relevant among genetically susceptible (NAT1 and NAT2 status) individuals.

#### (b) Cancer of the stomach

[Nishino et al. \(2001\)](#) observed no association with husband's smoking for cancer of the stomach (RR, 0.95; 95%CI: 0.58–1.6).

The two studies on the association of exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke with stomach cancer by subsite (cardia versus distal) gave contradictory results. In one study ([Mao et al., 2002](#)) a positive trend ( $P = 0.03$ ) in risk for cancer of the gastric cardia was associated with lifetime exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke (residential plus occupational) in never smoking men, with a relative risk of 5.8 (95%CI: 1.2–27.5) at the highest level of exposure ( $\geq 43$  years); no increased risks or trends were observed for distal gastric cancer. In the other study, [Duan et al. \(2009\)](#) an increased risk for distal gastric cancer

was found, but not for gastric cardia [Data were not analysed by sex due to small sample size].

#### 2.5.3 Cancer of the pancreas

Six studies have been identified on the association of exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke with cancer of the pancreas: three cohort ([Nishino et al., 2001](#); [Gallicchio et al., 2006](#); [Bao et al., 2009](#); the latter two are summarized in Table 2.17 available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-02-Table2.17.pdf>) and three case-control ([Villeneuve et al., 2004](#); [Hassan et al., 2007](#); [Lo et al., 2007](#); the former two studies are summarized in Table 2.18 available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-02-Table2.18.pdf>).

##### (a) Exposure in adulthood

Data from the majority of the studies ([Nishino et al., 2001](#); [Villeneuve et al., 2004](#); [Gallicchio et al., 2006](#); [Hassan et al., 2007](#); [Bao et al., 2009](#)) suggested lack of an association of cancer of the pancreas with never smokers exposed to second-hand tobacco smoke in adulthood at home or at work. (RR 1.2 (95%CI: 0.45–3.1) and 1.21 (95%CI: 0.60–2.44) respectively).

[Lo et al. \(2007\)](#) reported an odd ratio of 6.0 (95%CI: 2.4–14.8) for never smokers (both sexes combined) exposed to second-hand tobacco smoke in Egypt. [The Working Group noted the small numbers of cases, the use of hospital controls and the small proportion of the cases (35%) with histopathological confirmation. Data are not included in Table 2.18 on-line].

##### (b) Exposure during childhood

In the Nurses' Health Study, [Bao et al. \(2009\)](#) noted an increased risk for cancer of the pancreas (RR 1.42; 95%CI: 1.07–1.89) for maternal but not for paternal smoking (RR 0.97; 95%CI: 0.77–1.21) during childhood.

### 2.5.4 Cancer of the kidney (renal cell carcinoma)

Two case-control studies have been published on the association of exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke with cancer of the kidney (specifically renal cell carcinoma) since IARC (2004) (Hu *et al.*, 2005; Theis *et al.*, 2008; Table 2.19 available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-02-Table2.19.pdf>). In both studies a significantly increased risk associated with exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke among never smokers was reported.

### 2.5.5 Cancer of the urinary bladder

A total of seven studies and one meta-analysis have considered the association between exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke and cancer of the urinary bladder: three cohort studies (Zeegers *et al.*, 2002; Bjerregaard *et al.*, 2006; Alberg *et al.*, 2007; Table 2.9, available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-02-Table2.9.pdf>), four case-control studies (Burch *et al.*, 1989; Chen *et al.*, 2005a; Samanic *et al.*, 2006; Jiang *et al.*, 2007; Table 2.10 available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-02-Table2.10.pdf>), and one meta-analysis (Van Hemelrijck *et al.*, 2009).

#### (a) Population-based exposure-response relationship

Burch *et al.* (1989) and Zeegers *et al.* (2002) reported no increased risk for cancer of the urinary bladder [Data are not included in the Tables]. Van Hemelrijck *et al.* (2009) reported a meta-relative risk of 0.99 (95%CI: 0.86–1.14) for never smokers exposed to second-hand tobacco smoke. [Data not included in Table. The Working Group noted the marked variation in risk in the analyses by sex and by timing of exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke during adulthood or childhood].

In the European Prospective Investigation into Cancer and Nutrition (EPIC) study,

Bjerregaard *et al.* (2006) compared ever versus never exposed to second-hand tobacco smoke as an adult or a child: the risk for cancer of the urinary bladder increased for exposures during childhood (OR, 1.38; 95%CI: 1.00–1.90), and was stronger for never-smokers (OR, 2.02; 95%CI: 0.94–4.35).

Alberg *et al.* (2007) analysed data from two cohorts of non-smoking women in the USA exposed to second-hand smoke at home. An association with exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke was found in the 1963 cohort (RR, 2.3; 95%CI: 1.0–5.4) but not in the 1975 cohort (RR, 0.9; 95%CI: 0.4–2.3). [The Working Group noted the small number of cases available for some of the risk estimates.]

In a study assessing occupational exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke (Samanic *et al.*, 2006), the risk for cancer of the urinary bladder was increased in the highest exposure category among women (RR, 3.3; 95%CI: 1.1–9.5) but not among men (RR, 0.6; 95%CI: 0.2–1.4).

#### (b) Molecular-based exposure-response relationship

4-aminobiphenyl (4-ABP) can form DNA adducts and induce mutations, and cigarette smoke is the most prominent source of exposure to 4-aminobiphenyl in humans (see Section 4). Jiang *et al.* (2007) used variation in 4-ABP-haemoglobin adducts level to assess exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke and reported a significantly increased risk with increasing lifetime exposure among never-smoking women exposed in adulthood or childhood.

Chen *et al.* (2005a) hypothesized that the ability to detoxify arsenic (a risk factor urinary bladder cancer) through methylation may modify risk related to second-hand tobacco smoke exposure. Results of the adjusted analyses show that a high primary methylation index associates with lower risk of cancer of the urinary bladder (OR, 0.37; 95%CI: 0.14–0.96, *p* interaction = 0.11) in second-hand tobacco smoke exposed subjects



compared to unexposed. In endemic area the ability to methylate arsenic may play a role in reducing the risk of cancer of the urinary bladder associated with second-hand tobacco smoke exposure. [The Working Group noted that the small number of cases and the use of hospital controls limit the validity of inferences from this study].

Using case-control data for never and former smokers nested within the EPIC study [Vineis et al. \(2007b\)](#) examined susceptibility in genes involved in oxidative stress (such as *NQO1*, *MPO*, *COMT*, *MnSOD*), in phase I (such as *CYP1A1* and *CYP1B1*) and phase II (such as *GSTM1*, and *GSTT1*) metabolizing genes, and in methylene-tetrahydrofolate (*MTHFR*). *GSTM1* deletion was strongly associated with risk for urinary bladder cancer in never smokers (OR, 1.75; 95%CI: 0.89–3.43), and a similar association was noted for former smokers and for men.

### 2.5.6 Cancer of the cervix

The cohort studies evaluated previously ([Hirayama, 1984](#); [Jee et al., 1999](#); [Nishino et al., 2001](#)) consistently indicated the lack of association between exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke and cancer of the uterine cervix, while the informative case-control studies ([Sandler et al., 1985b](#); [Slattery et al., 1989](#); [Scholes et al., 1999](#)) suggested a non-statistically significant increase in risk.

A total of 10 new studies have been identified: one cohort study (Table 2.11 available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-02-Table2.11.pdf>) and nine case-control studies ([Buckley et al., 1981](#); [Brown et al., 1982](#); [Hellberg et al., 1986](#); [Hirose et al., 1996](#); [Coker et al., 2002](#); [Wu et al., 2003](#); [Tay & Tay, 2004](#); [Sobti et al., 2006](#); [Tsai et al., 2007](#); Table 2.12 available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-02-Table2.12.pdf>). Three early case-control studies ([Buckley et al., 1981](#); [Brown et al., 1982](#); [Hellberg et al.,](#)

[1986](#)) did not look at risk of exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke in never smoking women, and are not further discussed.

#### (a) Squamous cell carcinoma of the cervix

A significant increase risk for invasive cancer of the uterine cervix associated with exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke during adulthood was found in three case-control studies ([Hirose et al., 1996](#); [Wu et al., 2003](#); [Tay & Tay, 2004](#)) and one cohort study ([Trimble et al., 2005](#)).

#### (b) Cervical intraepithelial lesions and neoplasia

An earlier case-control study ([Coker et al., 1992](#)) found no statistically significant association between exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke and CIN II/III in non-smokers, after adjustment for age, race, education, number of partners, contraceptive use, history of sexually transmitted disease and history of Pap smear. A later study ([Coker et al., 2002](#)) looked at risk of low grade and high grade cervical squamous intraepithelial lesions (LSIL and HSIL, respectively) in HPV positive never-smokers and reported a significant association with exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke. In a community-based case-control study, [Tsai et al. \(2007\)](#) observed a markedly increased risk for both CIN1 and CIN2 in both HPV-positive and HPV-negative women exposed to second-hand tobacco smoke. Only [Coker et al. \(2002\)](#) and [Tsai et al. \(2007\)](#) controlled for HPV status in women.

[Sobti et al. \(2006\)](#) reported that cervical cancer risk is increased in individuals exposed to second-hand tobacco smoke with *GSTM1* (null), *GSTT1* (null) and *GSTP1* (Ile<sup>105</sup>Val) genotypes, with odd ratios ranging from 6.4 to 10.2.

### 2.5.7 Cancer of the ovary

One cohort study ([Nishino et al., 2001](#)) and two case-control studies ([Goodman & Tung, 2003](#); [Baker et al., 2006](#); Table 2.16 available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/>



[vol100E/100E-02-Table2.16.pdf](#)) have been published on the association of exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke with cancer of the ovary. In all three studies a null or inverse association of cancer of the ovary for never smokers exposed to second-hand tobacco smoke was found. [Nishino \*et al.\* \(2001\)](#) observed no association with husband's smoking (RR 1.7; 95%CI: 0.6– 5.2). [Goodman & Tung \(2003\)](#) reported no association of exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke during childhood with risk of cancer of the ovary. [Baker \*et al.\* \(2006\)](#) reported a decreased risk of cancer of the ovary for never smokers exposed to second-hand tobacco smoke (OR, 0.68; 95%CI: 0.46–0.99), with similar findings for former and current smokers.

### 2.5.8 Tumours of the brain and CNS

A total of three case–control studies ([Ryan \*et al.\*, 1992](#); [Hurley \*et al.\*, 1996](#); [Phillips \*et al.\*, 2005](#)) have considered the association of second-hand tobacco smoke and cancers of the brain and central nervous system. [Ryan \*et al.\* \(1992\)](#) reported an increased risk of meningioma associated with spousal exposure, particularly among women (RR 2.7; 95%CI: 1.2–6.1). In a case–control study of gliomas in Australia no association was found for exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke in never smokers (RR 0.97, 95%CI: 0.61–1.53) (both sexes combined) ([Hurley \*et al.\*, 1996](#)). However [Phillips \*et al.\* \(2005\)](#) found that spousal smoking was associated with an increased risk for intracranial meningioma in both sexes combined (OR, 2.0; 95%CI: 1.1–3.5), the risk increased with increasing duration of exposure ( $P$  for trend = 0.02).

### 2.5.9 Other cancers

One case–control study on hepatocellular cancer ([Hassan \*et al.\*, 2008](#)) and one on cancer of the testis ([McGlynn \*et al.\*, 2006](#)) were published since [IARC \(2004\)](#). [Hassan \*et al.\* \(2008\)](#) did not

find an association with exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke and hepatocellular cancer, while that of [McGlynn \*et al.\* \(2006\)](#) did not support the hypothesis that maternal smoking is related to the development of cancer of the testis (Table 2.20 available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-02-Table2.20.pdf>). However, these studies provide limited information on the association of exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke with the risk of these cancers.

## 2.6 Parental tobacco smoking and childhood cancers

### 2.6.1. Overview

A large number of studies have evaluated the association of cancer risk in childhood with exposure to parental smoking. However, childhood cancers are extremely heterogeneous, both between major cancer sites and within subtypes. In addition, given the rarity of childhood cancers, studies of specific cancer sites and subtypes that have adequate sample sizes and detailed exposure assessments are difficult to achieve.

#### (a) Smoking exposure assessment

Parental smoking before and during pregnancy exposes germ cells (spermatozoa and ova) and/or the fetus to the same chemical mixture and levels of tobacco smoke as during active smoking, while post-natal exposure to parental tobacco smoking exposes the offspring to second-hand tobacco smoke. Some studies distinguish whether exposure to parental smoking was preconceptional, *in utero* or postnatal. Even when a study reports only on one time period, exposure may have occurred at all three periods. Exposures to tobacco smoking during each of these periods tend to correlate, in particular, paternal smoking is less likely to change during and after pregnancy. In addition, paternal and

maternal smoking habits are highly correlated (Boffetta *et al.*, 2000).

Most studies assessed the number of cigarettes smoked per day (e.g. 0–10, 11–20, 20+) and, when data were available, some assessed continuous consumption of cigarettes per day. One study reported exposure in pack-years (Lee *et al.*, 2009). The SEARC international case–control study assessed polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) as the main exposure of interest and obtained information on both tobacco smoke and occupational exposures (Cordier *et al.*, 2004).

#### (b) Bias and confounding

Whitehead *et al.* (2009) evaluated the adequacy of self-reported smoking histories on 469 homes of leukaemia cases and controls and found that nicotine concentrations derived from interview responses to a structured questionnaire strongly correlated to measured levels in dust samples.

The major confounders for the relationship between parental smoking and childhood cancers were markers of socioeconomic status, race or ethnicity, birth weight or gestational age, parental age, sex and age of the case child. In most studies matching or adjusting for these confounders was performed as appropriate. In some studies matching was performed for birth order and centre of diagnosis.

### 2.6.2 All childhood cancers combined

In addition to the four cohort and 10 case–control studies reviewed by IARC (2004), three case–control studies have examined the role of second-hand tobacco smoke in relation to risk for all childhood cancers combined (Sorahan *et al.*, 2001; Pang *et al.*, 2003; Sorahan & Lancashire, 2004; Table 2.21 available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-02-Table2.21.pdf>).

#### (a) Intensity and timing of parental smoking

In a follow-up of the Inter-Regional Epidemiological Study of Childhood Cancer (IRESCC) by McKinney *et al.* (1987), a statistically significant positive trend with daily paternal smoking before pregnancy was observed when cases were compared with controls selected from General Practitioners' (GPs') lists, but not from hospitals; an inverse trend was noted for maternal smoking before pregnancy when cases were compared with hospital, but not with General Practitioners, controls (Sorahan *et al.*, 2001).

In the United Kingdom Childhood Cancer Study (UKCCS), Pang *et al.* (2003) observed a similar pattern of increasing risk with increasing intensity of paternal preconception smoking, and of decreasing risk for increasing maternal smoking before and during pregnancy for all diagnoses combined, and for most individual diagnostic groups.

In the most recent report from the Oxford Survey of Childhood Cancers (OSCC), the risk of death from all childhood cancers combined was not associated with maternal smoking, but was consistently associated with paternal smoking alone or in combination with maternal smoking, in both adjusted and unadjusted analyses [Ex-smokers of more than 2 years before birth of the survey child were assimilated to non-smokers] (Sorahan & Lancashire, 2004).

#### (b) Bias and confounding

The significant trends observed by Sorahan *et al.* (2001) and Pang & Birch (2003) did not diminish when adjusted for potential confounding covariates or with simultaneous analysis of parental smoking habits. The relationship between maternal smoking and birth weight reported by Sorahan *et al.* (2001) suggested that self-reported maternal smoking was equally reliable for cases and for controls. However, comparisons of smoking patterns with national data suggested that control parents in this study were heavier smokers.

### 2.6.3 Leukaemias and lymphomas

Since [IARC \(2004\)](#), one cohort study ([Mucci et al., 2004](#)) (Table 2.22 available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-02-Table2.22.pdf>), eleven case-control studies (Table 2.23 available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-02-Table2.23.pdf>), and one meta-analysis ([Lee et al., 2009](#)) (Table 2.24 available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-02-Table2.24.pdf>) have evaluated the association of parental tobacco smoking with the risk for lymphatic and haematopoietic cancers.

#### (a) Duration and intensity of exposure

From a meta-analysis of 30 studies published before 1999 [Boffetta et al. \(2000\)](#) reported no statistically significant association for all lymphatic and haematopoietic neoplasms and noted evidence of publication bias for the available data.

[Lee et al. \(2009\)](#) performed a meta-analysis of twelve studies on paternal smoking and risk of childhood leukaemia. Paternal smoking before conception of the index child was significantly associated with the risk for acute leukaemia (AL) and acute lymphoblastic leukaemia (ALL) (Fig. 2.2).

In a cohort study, maternal smoking was associated with a lower risk of acute lymphoblastic leukaemia, a higher risk of acute myeloid leukaemia (AML) particularly among heavy smokers, and a slight excess risk for non-Hodgkin lymphoma (NHL) ([Mucci et al., 2004](#)).

Because of the diversity of types of exposure (paternal, maternal, parental), of timing of exposure (preconception, *in utero*, post-natally) and of the outcome, the case-control studies are briefly summarized individually.

[Schüz et al. \(1999\)](#) showed that the risk for acute childhood leukaemias was inversely related to maternal smoking during pregnancy. Paternal smoking before pregnancy showed no

association with leukaemia risk for any smoking category. [Sorahan et al. \(2001\)](#) reported a non-significant positive association between risk for acute lymphoblastic leukaemia and daily cigarette smoking by fathers before pregnancy, and a non-significant inverse association between risk for acute lymphoblastic leukaemia and daily smoking by mothers before pregnancy. Down Syndrome children are highly susceptible to the development of acute leukaemia. In a case-control study of 27 children with acute leukaemia and Down Syndrome compared with 58 Down Syndrome children without acute leukaemia [Mejía-Aranguré et al. \(2003\)](#) found that paternal smoking of more than 10 cigarettes/day, both preconception and after birth of the index child was associated with acute leukaemia. In the UKCC case-control study ([Pang et al., 2003](#)), paternal but not maternal preconception tobacco smoking of 1–19 cigarettes/day was associated with an increased risk of leukaemia, and a similar pattern was reported for lymphoma. [Menegaux et al. \(2005\)](#) reported no increased risk of acute lymphoblastic leukaemia or acute nonlymphocytic leukaemia (ANLL) associated with any category of post-natal exposure to tobacco smoking (i.e. maternal smoking during breastfeeding or after, paternal smoking after birth, other smokers at home), except for an increased risk of acute nonlymphocytic leukaemia with paternal smoking. In a later study, ([Menegaux et al., 2007](#)) reported no association between acute and parental smoking, by subtype (acute myeloid leukaemia or acute lymphoblastic leukaemia) or by time of exposure, with the exception of an increased risk of acute lymphoblastic leukaemia associated with maternal smoking during pregnancy. [Chang et al. \(2006\)](#) reported no risk for acute leukaemia, acute lymphoblastic leukaemia or acute myeloid leukaemia associated with maternal smoking either by period of smoking (preconception, during pregnancy, post-natally) or by amount smoked. Paternal preconception smoking was strongly associated

**Fig. 2.2 Meta-analysis of the association between paternal smoking and childhood leukaemia****(A) Overall paternal smoking status**

Author	Year	Country	Cases
Sorahan	1997	UK	2254
Ji	1997	China	151
Brondum	1999	CCG	1618
Chang	2006	US	228
MacArthur	2008	Canada	388
Our study		Korea	164
<b>All Leukemia (N=6)</b>			
			4830
<b>ALL (N=5)</b>			
			2865

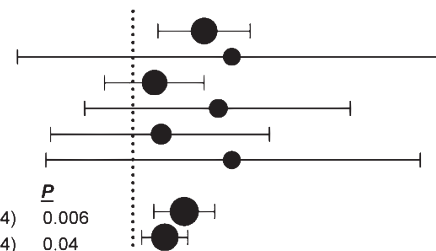
**OR 95% CI****P**

1.13 (1.04-1.24)

0.006

1.07 (1.00-1.14)

0.04

**(B) Paternal smoking status before pregnancy of the child**

Author	Year	Country	Cases
Magnani	1990	Italy	138
John	1991	US	47
Ji	1997	China	136
Brondum	1999	CCG	1618
Schuz	1999	Germany	955
Sorahan	2001	UK	139
Pang	2003	UK	1308
Chang	2006	US	227
Menegaux	2007	France	415
MacArthur	2008	Canada	386
Our study		Korea	148
<b>All Leukemia (N=11)</b>			
			5540
<b>ALL (N=9)</b>			
			3073

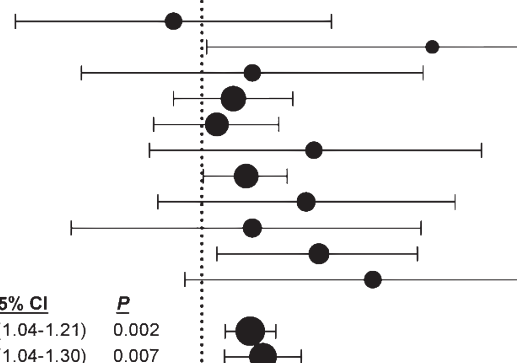
**OR 95% CI****P**

1.12 (1.04-1.21)

0.002

1.17 (1.04-1.30)

0.007

**(C) Paternal smoking status after birth of the child**

Author	Year	Country	Cases
Ji	1997	China	164
Infante-Rivard	2000	Canada	486
Menegaux	2007	France	472
Our study		Korea	158
<b>All Leukemia (N=4)</b>			
			1280
<b>ALL (N=4)</b>			
			1111

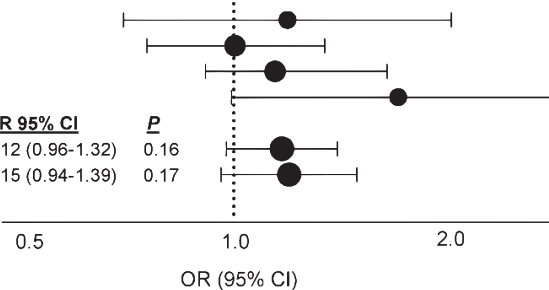
**OR 95% CI****P**

1.12 (0.96-1.32)

0.16

1.15 (0.94-1.39)

0.17



with risk for acute myeloid leukaemia both by period and intensity of smoking. When both paternal preconception smoking and maternal postnatal smoking were considered, the risk for acute lymphoblastic leukaemia was stronger. [Rudant et al. \(2008\)](#) reported a significant positive association between paternal smoking and acute lymphoblastic leukaemia, acute myeloid leukaemia, Burkitt lymphoma, and anaplastic large cell non-Hodgkin lymphoma, with increasing relative risks (RR) with increasing

number of cigarettes smoked. No associations with Hodgkin lymphoma or other types of non-Hodgkin lymphoma were observed. Non-significantly elevated risks were observed for maternal smoking during pregnancy for acute lymphoblastic leukaemia and non-Hodgkin lymphoma, but not in the highest category of 10 or more cigarettes/day. [MacArthur et al. \(2008\)](#) reported non-significantly elevated risk estimates for acute lymphoblastic leukaemia and acute myeloid leukaemia with maternal smoking, but



not with paternal smoking, before and during pregnancy. [Lee et al. \(2009\)](#) in Seoul, Republic of Korea, reported that paternal smoking was associated with a significantly increased risk of acute leukaemia and acute lymphoblastic leukaemia in a dose–response manner. The proportion of mothers who smoked was too low (6.1% in controls) to analyse risk in association with maternal smoking.

#### (b) Potential confounders

In the study of Down Syndrome children ([Mejía-Aranguré et al., 2003](#)), the adjustment models did not show any interaction between paternal alcoholism and smoking. [Menegaux et al. \(2005\)](#) examined the association of parental smoking and maternal alcohol and coffee intake during pregnancy with the risk for childhood leukaemia. They found no association of acute lymphoblastic leukaemia or acute nonlymphocytic leukaemia with maternal smoking during pregnancy but an association with maternal alcohol and coffee consumption.

#### (c) Effect modification

Cigarette smoke is a known germ-cell mutagen in mice ([Yauk et al., 2007](#)), a likely germ-cell mutagen in humans (see Section 4.1.3a) and alters gene expression (see Section 4.1.4). [Infante-Rivard et al. \(2000\)](#) first assessed the role of parental smoking and *CYP1A1* genetic polymorphisms with leukaemia and reported no statistically significant association with leukaemia overall. However, a case-only subanalysis suggested that the effect of parental smoking may be modified by variant alleles in the *CYP1A1* gene: *CYP1A1\*2B* tended to decrease risks and *CYP1A1\*2A* and *CYP1A1\*4* increased the risks associated with smoking in the second and third trimesters of pregnancy. [Clavel et al. \(2005\)](#) examined the role of metabolic polymorphisms in the *CYP1A1*, *GSTM1*, *GSTP1*, *GSTT1* and *NQO1* genes. The slow *EPHX1* allele (exon 3 homozygous genotype) was negatively associated with leukaemia,

in particular acute lymphoblastic leukaemia, whereas the fast *EPHX1* allele (exon 4 homozygous genotype) was positively associated with leukaemia overall. A non-significant association with acute lymphoblastic leukaemia was noted for the homozygous *NQO1\*2* genotype. There was a significant interaction of the *CYP1A1\*2A* allele with smoking in the case-only analysis and a not significant interaction, but similar in magnitude, in the case–control analysis. A significant interaction was also observed with the *GSTM1* deletion in the case-only analysis, but not in the case–control analysis. [Lee et al. \(2009\)](#) genotyped five single-nucleotide *CYP1A1* polymorphisms: acute lymphoblastic leukaemia risk was significantly increased for cases without the CGACC haplotype and with paternal smoking or the presence of at least one smoker in the home.

*RAS* is the second most mutated gene in smoking-associated lung tumours (Section 4.1.3b). *RAS* mutations have been consistently correlated with myeloid leukaemias in adults and children, in particular with occupationally-associated adult myeloid leukemias ([Taylor et al., 1992](#); [Barletta et al., 2004](#)). [Wiemels et al. \(2005\)](#) studied the relationship of *RAS* mutations, hyperdiploidy (> 50 chromosomes) and smoking in a case series of 191 acute leukaemia. Smoking was negatively associated with hyperdiploidy (possibly due to the sensitivity of the hyperdiploid clone and consequent differential survival) and hyperdiploid acute leukaemia cases had the highest rates of *RAS* mutations. [Paternal smoking in the three months before pregnancy was less frequent among hyperdiploids than among non-hyperdiploids.]

### 2.6.4 Cancers of the brain and central nervous system

Since [IARC \(2004\)](#), the association of exposure to parental smoking and risk for childhood brain and central nervous system (CNS) tumours has been examined in one cohort study ([Brooks](#)



*et al.*, 2004; Table 2.25 available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-02-Table2.25.pdf>), six case-control studies (*Schüz et al.*, 1999; *Sorahan et al.*, 2001; *Filippini et al.*, 2002; *Pang et al.*, 2003; *Cordier et al.*, 2004; *Plichart et al.*, 2008; Table 2.26 available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-02-Table2.26.pdf>), and one meta-analysis (*Huncharek et al.*, 2002; Table 2.27 available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100E/100E-02-Table2.27.pdf>).

A meta-analysis of 30 studies published before 1999 indicated no significant increase in risk for CNS tumours associated with maternal smoking during pregnancy and an increased risk for brain tumours with paternal smoking (*Boffetta et al.*, 2000).

*Huncharek et al.* (2002) included one cohort and eleven case-control studies in a meta-analysis and found no clear association of maternal smoking during pregnancy with risk for childhood brain tumours, and a null risk estimate for all CNS tumours (even when the analysis was restricted to astrocytomas, the main brain tumour type). The results were comparable and consistently null for all sensitivity analyses conducted (Table 2.27 on-line).

*Brooks et al.* (2004) analysing the Swedish birth cohort study observed that children, in particular those aged 2–4 years, whose mother smoked during pregnancy, had an increased incidence of childhood brain tumours; the increase in risk was similar for benign and malignant brain tumours and most apparent for astrocytomas (Table 2.25 on-line).

*Schüz et al.* (1999) evaluated parental smoking and CNS tumour risk in children < 15 years from the German Childhood Cancer Registry (see Table 2.26 on-line). No association with risk of CNS tumours was observed for either maternal smoking during pregnancy or paternal smoking before pregnancy. *Sorahan et al.* (2001) found no significant association or trends of risk of CNS tumours with either paternal or maternal

smoking, except for low level of maternal exposure [the latter analysis is based on only eleven exposed cases and one control, yielding a very wide confidence interval]. *Filippini et al.* (2002) observed no association between risk of childhood brain tumours and parental smoking before pregnancy, maternal smoking, regular maternal exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke during pregnancy, or exposure of the child to second-hand tobacco smoke during its first year of life. The results did not vary by child's age at diagnosis, type of CNS tumour or study centre. *Plichart et al.* (2008) reported no association for maternal smoking during pregnancy with CNS tumours, while paternal smoking preconception showed a significant association, especially for astrocytomas. When assessing parental exposure to PAHs, *Cordier et al.* (2004) observed an association of paternal exposure to occupational PAHs preconception with all childhood brain tumours and with astroglial tumours, but no trend of increasing risk with increased exposure. Paternal smoking alone was associated with a risk for astroglial tumours when compared with non-smoking, non-occupationally-exposed fathers. *Pang et al.* (2003) found a decreased CNS risk with maternal smoking of more than 20 cigarettes/day preconception, in both unadjusted and adjusted analyses. In the analyses by histological subgroups a statistically significant decreased risk was associated with maternal smoking during pregnancy for primitive neuroectodermal tumours.

### 2.6.5 Hepatoblastoma

Hepatoblastoma is an embryonal tumour presumably of fetal origin and prenatal exposures are likely more important than post-natal. In some children, a diagnosis of hepatoblastoma is evident at birth or shortly thereafter, with a median age at diagnosis of 12 months. The ability of hepatoblastoma tumour cells to synthesize  $\alpha$ -fetoprotein (AFP), a major serum protein

synthesized by fetal liver cells, also suggests a fetal origin. Also, hepatoblastomas, like many other embryonal tumours, are associated with Beckwith-Wiedemann syndrome and hemihypertrophy, further suggesting a gestational oncogenic event (DeBaun & Tucker, 1998). Data were available for both maternal and paternal exposures from two studies (Pang *et al.*, 2003; Sorahan & Lancashire, 2004) while two other studies (McLaughlin *et al.*, 2006; Pu *et al.*, 2009) were limited to data on maternal smoking, available from birth certificates and medical records, respectively (Table 2.28). Most of these studies had limited sample sizes given the extreme rarity of these tumours.

#### (a) Parental smoking exposure

After adjustment for relevant covariates, Pang *et al.* (2003) observed a statistically significant increased risk of hepatoblastoma in association with maternal preconception smoking (OR, 2.68; 95%CI: 1.16–6.21,  $P = 0.02$ ) in a somewhat dose-dependent manner ( $P = 0.058$ ). The association with parental smoking was strongest (relative to neither parent smoking) when both parents smoked (OR, 4.74; 95%CI: 1.68–13.35,  $P = 0.003$ ). Sorahan & Lancashire (2004) found no increased risk associated with maternal or paternal smoking alone compared to non-smokers, in both adjusted and unadjusted analyses. In contrast, parental smoking (paternal and maternal smoking combined) was strongly and consistently associated with an increased risk for hepatoblastoma in both adjusted and unadjusted analyses.

In a record-based case-cohort study only maternal smoking was examined (McLaughlin *et al.*, 2006). Extremely low birth weight (< 1000 g) was strongly associated with hepatoblastoma. After adjustment for birth weight, a statistically significant elevated risk for hepatoblastoma was found with maternal smoking (RR 2.1; 95%CI: 1.0–4.2). The increased risk was stronger for children diagnosed at the age of two years or

older (RR 6.0 versus 1.4). Also, the relative risk for maternal smoking and hepatoblastoma was stronger for children with normal birth weight [> 2500 g] than for low birth weight children. For cases of hepatoblastoma diagnosed after the age of two years, the relative risk for maternal smoking among children with normal birth weight was also stronger than that among children with low birth weight.

Another study on maternal smoking only was conducted in Chonquing, China (Pu *et al.*, 2009). After adjustment for birth weight, a significantly increased risk for hepatoblastoma was found for maternal smoking (RR 2.9; 95%CI: 1.1–4.2). Adjustments for maternal age, maternal body mass index and sex of the baby did not change the odd ratios. When analyses were stratified by birth weight, the odd ratio associated with maternal smoking for children with a birth weight greater than 2500 g was increased almost fourfold. Stratification by age at diagnosis showed that the risk increased almost fivefold with diagnosis at the age of two years or over. [The Working Group noted that since information regarding mother's smoking status for both cases and controls was obtained before diagnosis the potential for biased recall of maternal exposures during pregnancy is reduced].

#### (b) Bias and confounding

The known risk factors for hepatoblastoma include low and very low birth weights (< 2000 g and < 1000 g, respectively), maternal age and use of assisted reproductive technologies. All studies adjusted for maternal age, and low birth weight was addressed in three of them (Pang & Birch, 2003; McLaughlin *et al.*, 2006; Pu *et al.*, 2009). Assisted reproductive technologies were not considered to be an important potential confounder of these studies.

Spector & Ross (2003) argued that the association of hepatoblastoma with parental smoking observed by Pang *et al.* (2003) might be confounded by birth weight. In their response,

Table 2.28 Studies of parental tobacco smoking and childhood hepatoblastoma

Reference, study location and period	Characteristics of cases	Characteristics of controls	Exposure assessment	Exposure categories (case/control)	(Cases/controls)	OR (95% CI)* * $P < 0.05$ ** $P < 0.01$	Adjustment for potential confounders	Comments
<a href="#">Pang et al. (2003)</a> United Kingdom	3838 childhood cancer cases, of which 28 hepatoblastoma; Hospital based; < 15 yr of age; 1991–94 in Scotland; 1992–94 in England and Wales	7581 controls; matched for sex, date of birth and geographical area of residence at diagnosis; randomly selected from Family Health Services Authorities in England and Wales and Health boards in Scotland	Face-to-face structured interviews; Computerized self-administered questionnaires to parents of index child	<i>Parental smoking</i>	(8/3142)	1.00 (ref)	Deprivation and parental age at birth of index child	Underreporting of smoking by case mothers
				Neither parent	(2/574)	2.02 (0.40–10.2)		
				Mother only	(3/1008)	1.86 (0.46–7.55)		
				Father only	(10/1249) **	4.74 (1.68–13.35)		
				Both parents				
				<i>Paternal preconception smoking (cigarettes per d)</i>				
				0	(11/3082)	1 (ref)		
				1–19	(6/1003)	1.88 (0.67–5.26)		
				20+	(7/1440)	1.65 (0.61–4.45)		
				Trend $P$	0.272			
<a href="#">Pang &amp; Birch (2003)</a> United Kingdom	Birch and Kelsey diagnostic subgroups, which group biologically similar tumours together ( <a href="#">UKCCS Investigators, 2000</a> ) excluding diagnostic subgroups with less than 10 cases			<i>Maternal preconception smoking (cigarettes per d)</i>			\$ As above, additionally adjusted for birth weight	
				0	(10/3916)	1 (ref)		
				1–19	(9/1490)	2.99 (1.15–7.76)*		
				20+	(4/882)	2.17 (0.65–7.20)		
				$P$ for trend	0.058			
				<i>Maternal preconception smoking</i>	(28/7581)	2.68 (1.16–6.21)*		
				<i>Both parents preconception smoking</i>	(27/6987)	4.74**		
				\$ <i>Maternal preconception smoking</i>		2.50*		
				\$ <i>Both parents preconception smoking</i>		4.97**		

**Table 2.28 (continued)**

Reference, study location and period	Characteristics of cases	Characteristics of controls	Exposure assessment	Exposure categories (case/control)	(Cases/controls)	OR (95% CI)* * $P < 0.05$ ** $P < 0.01$	Adjustment for potential confounders	Comments
<a href="#">Sorahan &amp; Lancashire (2004)</a> United Kingdom, 1953–84	43 deaths from hepatoblastoma < 16 yr of age	5777 matched controls, (analysed as unmatched series)	Parental smoking during yr 1953–55, 1971–76, 1977–81	<i>Maternal cigarette smoking</i>			Sex, age at death, yr of death, social class, sibship position, age of mother	
				Non-smoker	(19/3191)	1 (ref)		
				Smoker	(24/2524)	1.73 (0.93–3.21)		
				<i>Paternal cigarette smoking</i>				
				Non-smoker	(12/2267)	1 (ref)		and father at birth of child,
				Smoker	(28/3359)	2.10 (1.03–4.25)*		obstetric radiography
				<i>Parental cigarette smoking</i>				
<a href="#">McLaughlin et al. (2006)</a> , New York, USA, 1985–2001	58 cases of hepatoblastoma, identified from New York State Cancer Registry for 1985–2001 from New York State	Matched on yr of birth, electronic birth records for 1985–2001 from New York State	Routinely recorded data on birth certificate	Neither parent	(9/1601)	1.0 (ref)		
				Mother only	(3/662)	0.85 (0.23–3.19)		
				Father only	(8/1545)	1.23 (0.46–3.28)		
				Both parents	(20/1800)	2.69 (1.18–6.13)*		
				<i>Maternal smoking</i>				
				Non-smoker	(36/3439)	1 (ref)		Association of maternal smoking was stronger in children with birth weights over 2.5kg.
				Smoker	(12/742)	2.1 (1.0–4.2) 2.7 (1.2–5.5) 5.8 (1.4–25.1)		
<a href="#">Pu et al. (2009)</a> , Chongqing China, 1990–97	58 cases	92 controls, appendicitis patients, matched on age, sex, yr	Medical record of mother or follow-up interviews as needed	Birth weight > 2500 g and age > 2 yr				
				<i>Maternal smoking</i>				
				Non-smoker	(43/84)	1 (ref)		Birth weight
				Smoker	(15/8)	2.9 (1.1–4.2)		

d, day or days; yr, year or years

[Pang & Birch \(2003\)](#) showed evidence supporting their initial conclusion: the comparable results for maternal smoking, smoking by both parents and maternal smoking for cases diagnosed at an older age, i.e. one year or older, before and after adjustment for birth weight, appear to rule out low birth weight as an explanation for the association.

Also, both later studies ([McLaughlin et al., 2006](#); [Pu et al., 2009](#)) reported higher relative risks for children with normal birth weight compared to those with low birth weight, particularly in cases diagnosed after the age of two years.

### 2.6.6 Other childhood cancers

Several other childhood cancers have been studied in relation to parental tobacco smoke exposures, namely neuroblastoma, nephroblastoma, bone tumours, Wilms tumour, soft tissue sarcomas, other neoplasms of the reticuloendothelial system, and childhood germ cell tumours. The data are few and inconsistent ([Schüz et al., 1999](#); [Sorahan et al., 2001](#); [Chen et al., 2005b](#); [Table 2.28](#)).

## 2.7 Synthesis

### 2.7.1 Lung

The totality of evidence available to date firmly establishes that exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke at home and at the workplace is causally associated with lung cancer risk in both men and women. This association has been observed in studies from North America, Europe, and Asia. Emerging evidence is also suggesting that exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke among children significantly enhances the risk of lung cancer in adulthood.

### 2.7.2 Breast

A large number of cohort studies, case-control studies and meta-analyses have assessed the association between exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke and breast cancer. Recent large cohort studies in Europe and North America showed no association between second-hand tobacco smoke and breast cancer. Positive associations in one or more subgroups were reported from some case-control studies; however, these associations were weaker in more recent studies compared with earlier studies.

Explorative analyses focusing on premenopausal breast cancer have suggested that second-hand tobacco smoke may preferentially cause premenopausal breast cancer. Positive associations were largely reported from case-control studies, in which both recall and publication bias cannot be ruled out. Case-control studies that collect a lifetime exposure history are particularly vulnerable to subjective and differential reporting of exposures that occurred long in the past from sources that are difficult to quantify. Overall, the results for an association with premenopausal breast cancer are also inconsistent.

### 2.7.3 Upper aerodigestive tract combined

Most evidence of the association between second-hand tobacco smoke and upper aerodigestive tract cancers, and the subsites of the oral cavity, pharynx and larynx, comes from a pooled analysis. Overall, the association between second-hand tobacco smoke exposure and cancers of the larynx and pharynx is less than causal.

### 2.7.4 Nasopharynx, and nasal cavity and accessory sinuses

There is some evidence from a cohort and case-control study that exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke increases the risk of sinonasal cancer; for cancer of the nasopharynx, the evidence is contradictory.



### 2.7.5 *Others sites*

Overall, data are conflicting and sparse for the association of exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke with all cancers combined, cancers of the gastrointestinal tract combined, and cancers of the stomach, colon, rectum, pancreas, liver (hepatocellular carcinoma), kidney (renal cell carcinoma), urinary bladder, cervix, ovary, testes, and brain and central nervous system.

### 2.7.6 *Childhood cancers*

#### (a) *All childhood cancers combined*

Four cohort studies, 13 case–control studies and one meta-analysis have assessed the association of parental tobacco smoking with childhood cancers, all sites combined, in offspring. Most of the early studies only assessed the contribution of maternal smoking, whereas recent studies generally assessed both paternal and maternal smoking, and at various time periods (preconception, during pregnancy, post-natally). Overall, the evidence for an association between parental smoking and childhood cancer (all sites combined) remains inconsistent and may be subject to bias. Nevertheless, a fairly consistent association of paternal tobacco smoking with childhood cancers is beginning to emerge, which is stronger in studies with more specific exposure assessments.

#### (b) *Leukaemias and lymphomas*

Two cohort studies, 27 case–control studies and 2 meta-analyses have examined the association of childhood haematopoietic malignancies (leukaemia and lymphoma) with exposure to parental smoking (paternal, maternal or both). All studies examined leukaemia, and a large number of these addressed non-Hodgkin lymphoma.

The body of evidence suggests a consistent association of leukaemia (and lymphoma) with paternal smoking preconception and with

combined parental smoking, with risk ratios ranging from 1.5 to 4.0. Maternal tobacco smoking during pregnancy generally showed modest increases in risk, or null or inverse relationships. The combined effects of preconception and post-conception exposures to tobacco smoke were highly significant.

Several studies on lymphoma risk associated with parental smoking showed significantly elevated risks associated with paternal tobacco smoking preconception. The analyses had small samples sizes, and biases due to participation, recall and response, especially related to exposure, cannot be ruled out.

#### (c) *Brain and central nervous system*

The association of childhood tumours of the brain and central nervous system with parental smoking was assessed in two cohort studies, 21 case–control studies and 2 meta-analyses. Overall these studies do not show an association with either paternal smoking, largely preconception, or maternal smoking prior, during or after pregnancy, or by CNS types, gliomas and primitive neuroectodermal tumours. The strongly positive associations noted in some studies for paternal tobacco smoking with astrocytomas are offset by the lack of association with childhood brain tumours reported by the large UK Childhood Cancer Study.

#### (d) *Hepatoblastoma*

Four informative case–control studies provided data on the association between parental smoking and hepatoblastomas. Two studies reported on both maternal and paternal smoking, while the two others assessed only maternal smoking. In one study where a large number of categories of childhood cancers ( $n = 25$ ) were assessed, the only childhood cancer that showed an association with parental smoking was hepatoblastoma. This original observation was confirmed in three later studies, with relative risks ranging from 2.0 to 5.5. Chance, bias and

confounding were adequately addressed in the data from the studies available. The evidence for the association of parental smoking with hepatoblastoma is convincing, with an emphasis on prenatal exposures.

(e) *Other childhood cancers*

Most of the associations reported for the other childhood cancers, notably soft tissue sarcomas, rhabdomyosarcomas, Ewing's sarcoma, neuroblastoma, Wilms tumour, reticuloendothelial sarcomas and germ cell tumours were null, with a few isolated and inconsistent positive observations.

### 3. Cancer in Experimental Animals

#### 3.1 Simulated second-hand tobacco smoke

Simulated second-hand tobacco smoke, frequently a mixture of 89% sidestream and 11% mainstream smoke, generated from cigarettes by smoking machines ([Teague et al., 1994](#)) has been tested for carcinogenicity in adult mice of strains that are genetically susceptible to induction of lung tumours ([Malkinson, 1992](#)). Mice were exposed in inhalation chambers. Several studies reported no increase in lung tumour incidence or multiplicity in mice exposed to simulated second-hand tobacco smoke for 5–9 months and killed immediately thereafter ([Witschi et al., 1995, 1997a](#); [Finch et al., 1996](#)). It was suggested that the lack of tumour response in simulated second-hand tobacco smoke-exposed mice might be due to treatment-induced stress (as determined by the increased plasma corticosterone level) that has been shown to attenuate lung tumorigenesis ([Stinn et al., 2005a](#)).

In subsequent studies from several laboratories ([Table 3.1](#)), an increased multiplicity and often increased incidence of lung tumours was

reported in male and female A/J mice exposed for five months and kept in filtered air for another four months ([Witschi et al., 1997a, b, 1998, 1999](#); [D'Agostini et al., 2001](#)) or longer ([Witschi et al., 2006](#)) before the mice were killed. Similar results were obtained with Swiss albino mice ([Witschi et al., 2002](#)). In these studies, no nasal tumours were observed in smoke-exposed mice.

In one study, male and female transgenic mice with a dominant negative *p53* mutation on an A/J background were exposed to simulated second-hand tobacco smoke for 9.5 continuous months or for 5 months followed by recovery in air for 4.5 months. Transgenic mice exposed by either regimen developed significantly higher incidence and multiplicity of lung tumours than sham-exposed control transgenic mice ([DeFlora et al., 2003](#)). Neither lung tumour incidence nor multiplicity was increased in smoke-exposed wild-type control mice in this study.

In one study, male and female rats exposed to room-aged sidestream cigarette smoke by nose-only inhalation for 24 months and then killed had no increased incidence of lung or other tumours in comparison with fresh-air controls. Lung tumours were not significantly increased in rats exposed for 24 months and kept until 30 months of age ([Stinn et al., 2005b](#)).

#### 3.2 Sidestream smoke condensate

In one study, sidestream cigarette smoke condensate applied to the shaved skin of female NMRI mice lower back, at total weekly doses of 5, 10 and 15 mg, for 3 months caused benign and malignant skin tumours and mammary carcinomas in mice observed for their lifespan and was more potently carcinogenic in this assay than mainstream smoke condensate. No cutaneous or subcutaneous tumours developed in any of three control groups ( $P < 0.001$ ) ([Mohtashamipur et al., 1990](#)). In one study, fractionated sidestream cigarette smoke condensates were implanted into the lungs of female rats. The fraction containing

**Table 3.1 Carcinogenicity studies of inhalation exposure to simulated second-hand tobacco smoke<sup>a</sup> in A/J mice, transgenic mice with a dominant negative *p53* mutation, and Wistar rats as a function of length of the post-exposure recovery period**

Species, strain (sex) Reference	Animals/group at start Dosing regimen Duration	Results Target organ Incidence and/or multiplicity of tumours (%)	Significance	Comments
Mice, A/J (M) <a href="#">Witschi et al. (1997a)</a>	48 animals/group Chamber concentration, 0 or 87 mg/m <sup>3</sup> total suspended particulates; 6 h/d, 5 d/wk for 5 mo followed by 0 or 4 mo post-exposure recovery 9 mo	5 mo: 2/24 (8%, 0.1 ± 0.1); 6/24 (25%, 0.3 ± 0.1) 9 mo: 9/24 (38%, 0.5 ± 0.2); 20/24 (83%, 1.4 ± 0.2)	NS  Incidence: <i>P</i> < 0.05 Multiplicity: <i>P</i> < 0.05	> 80% of tumours were adenomas; the rest were adenocarcinomas
Mice, A/J (F) <a href="#">D'Agostini et al. (2001)</a>	20 animals/group Chamber concentration, 0 or 120 mg/m <sup>3</sup> total suspended particulates; 6 h/d, 5 d/wk, for 5 mo followed by 4 mo post-exposure recovery 9 mo	5/20 (25%, 0.25 ± 0.10); 15/20 (75%, 1.05 ± 0.17)	Incidence: <i>P</i> < 0.01 Multiplicity: <i>P</i> < 0.01	
A/J mice (sex NR) <a href="#">Witschi et al. (2006)</a>	24, 25 controls (12 mo) 19, 17 controls (24 mo) Chamber concentration, 0 (control) or 158 mg/m <sup>3</sup> total suspended particulates; 6 h/d, 5 d/wk, for 6 mo followed by 4 or 16 mo post-exposure recovery 24 mo	12 mo: 13/24 (54%, 0.9 ± 0.2); 24/25 (96%, 1.8 ± 0.2) 24 mo: 8/9 (89%, 2.1 ± 0.5); 10/10 (100%, 4.3 ± 0.7)	Incidence: <i>P</i> < 0.05 Multiplicity: <i>P</i> < 0.05  Incidence: NS Multiplicity: <i>P</i> < 0.05	80% of tumours were adenomas
(UL53-3xΔJ)F <sub>1</sub> , Transgenic mice (M, F) <a href="#">De Flora et al. (2003)</a>	222 (108; 114 controls) Chamber concentration, 0 (control) or 113 mg/m <sup>3</sup> total suspended particulates; 6 h/d for 5 mo or 9.5 mo followed by 0 or 4.5 mo post-exposure recovery 9.5 mo	No recovery: NR; 17/30 (57%, 0.93 ± 0.18) With recovery: 5/26 (19%, 0.27 ± 0.10); 15/23 (65%, 0.74 ± 0.11)	Incidence: <i>P</i> < 0.01 Multiplicity: <i>P</i> < 0.01 Incidence: <i>P</i> < 0.01 Multiplicity: <i>P</i> < 0.01	
Wistar rats (M, F) <a href="#">Stinn et al. (2005b)</a>	99 rats/group Nose-only exposure; concentration, 0 (controls) or low dose 3 mg/m <sup>3</sup> or high dose 10 mg/m <sup>3</sup> ; 6 h/d, 7 d/wk, 24 mo followed by 0 or 6 mo post-exposure recovery 30 mo	24 mo: controls–0/16 Low dose–0/16 High dose–0/16 30 mo: controls–2/99 (2%) Low dose–4/98 (4%) High dose–5/94 (5%)	NS	

<sup>a</sup> Simulated second-hand tobacco smoke: 89% sidestream and 11% mainstream smoke from Kentucky 1R4F or 2R1 reference cigarettes d, day or days; F, female; h, hour or hours; M, male; mo, month or months; NR, not reported; NS, not significant; wk, week or weeks

PAHs with four and more rings (dose, 1.06 mg/rat) induced 5 lung carcinomas in 35 treated rats; fractions containing no PAHs or PAHs with two or three rings (16 mg/rat) had little or no carcinogenic effect ([Grimmer et al., 1988](#)).

### 3.3 Observational studies of companion animals

In one study, sinonasal cancers occurred more frequently in pet dogs of long-nosed breeds which lived in homes with at least one smoker ([Reif et al., 1998](#)), but no such excess risk was seen in a second study ([Bukowski et al., 1998](#)). A marginal excess risk of lung cancer was observed in dogs aged 10 years or less and exposed to household tobacco smoke in one study ([Reif et al., 1992](#)). Risk of bladder cancer in dogs was not related to exposure to household cigarette smoke in another study ([Glickman et al., 1989](#)).

Risk of malignant lymphoma was increased in pet cats exposed to household tobacco smoke in one study ([Bertone et al., 2002](#)), but the conclusion that this association was causal has been questioned ([Denson, 2003](#)). In another study by the same group ([Bertone et al., 2003](#)), exposure of pet cats to household tobacco smoke was also associated with a non-significant 2-fold increase in risk of oral squamous cell carcinoma.

### 3.4 Synthesis

Several studies showed consistent increases in lung tumour multiplicity and often lung tumour incidence in inbred strain A/J mice and in transgenic mice with a dominant negative *p53* tumour suppressor gene exposed by inhalation. In addition, in one report, skin and mammary tumours were induced in NMRI mice exposed to sidestream cigarette smoke condensate applied topically to the skin.

## 4. Other Relevant Data

See Section 4 of the *Monograph on Tobacco Smoking* in this volume.

## 5. Evaluation

There is *sufficient evidence* in humans for the carcinogenicity of second-hand tobacco smoke. Second-hand tobacco smoke causes cancer of the lung. Also, a positive association has been observed between exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke and cancers of the larynx and the pharynx.

There is *sufficient evidence* in experimental animals for the carcinogenicity of mixtures of mainstream and sidestream tobacco smoke.

There is *sufficient evidence* in experimental animals for the carcinogenicity of sidestream tobacco smoke condensates.

Second-hand tobacco smoke is *carcinogenic to humans* (Group 1).

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\* Exceptionally, the most recent updates of well-established ongoing surveys and reports, published after the meeting, were included in this Monograph. The methodology and data available at the time of the meeting were reviewed by the Working Group; the updates reflect the most current estimates of prevalence of exposure and therefore have no influence on the final evaluation.





**WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION  
INTERNATIONAL AGENCY FOR RESEARCH ON CANCER**

**IARC Monographs on the Evaluation of Carcinogenic Risks to Humans**

## **Volume 83**

# **Tobacco Smoke and Involuntary Smoking**

**Summary of Data Reported and Evaluation**

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Last updated: 24 July 2002

# TOBACCO SMOKING AND TOBACCO SMOKE (Group 1)

## 5. Summary of Data Reported and Evaluation

For definition of groups, see [Preamble](#).

**VOL.:** 83 (2002)

### 5.1 Exposure data

Smoking of tobacco is practised worldwide by over one thousand million people. However, while smoking prevalence has declined in many developed countries, it remains high in others and is increasing among women and in developing countries. Between one-fifth and two-thirds of men in most populations smoke. Women's smoking rates vary more widely but rarely equal male rates.

Tobacco is most commonly smoked as cigarettes, both manufactured — which are a highly sophisticated nicotine delivery system — and hand-rolled. Pipes, cigars, bidis and other products are used to a lesser extent or predominantly in particular regions. Cigarettes are made from fine-cut tobaccos which are wrapped in paper or a maize leaf. Cigars consist of cut tobacco filler formed in a binder leaf and with a wrapper leaf rolled spirally around the bunch. Bidis contain shredded tobacco wrapped in non-tobacco leaves, usually dried *temburni* leaves.

The chemical composition of tobacco smoke, although influenced by the specific manner in which individuals smoke, is primarily determined by the type of tobacco. It is also influenced by the design of the smoking device or product and, for cigarettes, by the presence or absence of filters, and by other factors including ventilation, paper porosity and types of additives. As a result, concentrations of individual chemicals in smoke vary. Analysis of the ways in which people smoke modern cigarettes shows that actual doses of nicotine, carcinogens and toxins depend on the intensity and method of smoking and have little relation to stated tar yields. The total volume of smoke drawn from cigarettes as a result of specific smoking patterns is the principal determinant of dose to the smoker. All presently available tobacco products that are smoked deliver substantial amounts of established carcinogens to their users.

The yields of tar, nicotine and carbon monoxide from cigarettes, as measured by standard machine-smoking tests, have fallen over recent decades in cigarettes sold in most parts of the world, but have remained higher in some countries. The tar and nicotine yields as currently measured are misleading and have only little value in the assessment of human exposure to carcinogens.

The regulation of smoking and smoke yields varies widely around the world in scope and degree of enforcement. Certain regulatory actions, such as taxes and workplace smoking bans, are effective in reducing smoking rates and protecting nonsmokers.

### 5.2 Human carcinogenicity data

In the previous 1986 *IARC Monograph* on tobacco smoking, cancers of the lung, oral cavity, pharynx, larynx, oesophagus (squamous-cell carcinoma), pancreas, urinary bladder and renal pelvis were identified as caused by cigarette smoking. Many more studies published since this earlier Monograph support these causal links. In addition, there is now sufficient evidence for a causal association between cigarette smoking and cancers of the nasal cavities and nasal sinuses, oesophagus (adenocarcinoma), stomach, liver, kidney (renal-cell carcinoma), uterine cervix and myeloid leukaemia.

In cancer sites that were causally linked to cigarette smoking in the previous *IARC Monograph* on tobacco smoking, the observed relative risks ranged generally from approximately 3 for pancreatic cancer to more than 20 for lung cancer. For those cancer sites that were now also linked to cigarette smoking in this Monograph,



generally two- to threefold increased risks were observed.

## **Cigarettes**

### *Lung*

Lung cancer is the most common cause of death from cancer in the world. The total number of cases is now estimated to be 1.2 million annually and is still increasing. The major cause of lung cancer is tobacco smoking, primarily of cigarettes. In populations with prolonged cigarette use, the proportion of lung cancer cases attributable to cigarette smoking has reached 90%.

The duration of smoking is the strongest determinant of lung cancer in smokers. Hence, the earlier the age of starting and the longer the continuation of smoking in adulthood, the greater the risk. Risk of lung cancer also increases in proportion to the numbers of cigarettes smoked.

Tobacco smoking increases the risk of all histological types of lung cancer including squamous-cell carcinoma, small-cell carcinoma, adenocarcinoma (including bronchiolar/alveolar carcinoma) and large-cell carcinoma. The association between adenocarcinoma of the lung and smoking has become stronger over time. The carcinogenic effects of cigarette smoking appear similar in both women and men.

Stopping smoking at any age avoids the further increase in risk of lung cancer incurred by continued smoking. The younger the age at cessation, the greater the benefit.

### *Urinary tract*

Tobacco smoking is a major cause of transitional-cell carcinomas of the bladder, ureter and renal pelvis. Risk increases with the duration of smoking and number of cigarettes smoked. As for lung cancer, stopping smoking at any age avoids the further increase in risk incurred by continued smoking.

Evidence from several cohort and case–control studies published since the previous *IARC Monograph* on tobacco smoking has indicated that renal-cell carcinoma is associated with tobacco smoking in both men and women. The association is not explained by confounding. A dose–response relationship with the number of cigarettes smoked has been noted in most studies, and a few also noted a reduction in risk after cessation.

### *Oral cavity*

Tobacco smoking, including cigarette smoking, is causally associated with cancer of the oral cavity (including lip and tongue) in both men and women. Since the previous *IARC Monograph* on tobacco smoking, evidence from many more studies has accumulated that further confirms this association. Use of smokeless tobacco and/or alcohol in combination with tobacco smoking greatly increases the risk of oral cancer. Risk increases substantially with duration of smoking and number of cigarettes smoked. Risk among former smokers is consistently lower than among current smokers and there is a trend of decreasing risk with increasing number of years since quitting.

### *Nasal cavity and paranasal sinuses*

An increased risk of sinonasal cancer among cigarette smokers has been reported in all nine case–control studies for which results are available. Of seven studies that have analysed dose–response relationships, a positive trend was found in five and was suggested in the other two. In all the five studies that have analysed squamous-cell carcinoma and adenocarcinoma separately, the relative risk was clearly increased for squamous-cell carcinoma.

## *Nasopharynx*

An increased risk for nasopharyngeal cancer among cigarette smokers was reported in one cohort study and nine case–control studies. Increased relative risks were reported in both high- and low-risk geographical regions for nasopharyngeal cancer. A dose–response relationship was detected with either duration or amount of smoking. A reduction in risk after quitting was also detected. The potential confounding effect of infection with Epstein–Barr virus was not controlled for in these studies; however, such an effect was not considered to be plausible. No important role was shown for other potential confounders.

## *Oropharynx and hypopharynx*

Oropharyngeal and hypopharyngeal cancer are causally associated with cigarette smoking. The risk increased with increased duration of smoking and daily cigarette consumption and decreased with increasing time since quitting.

## *Oesophagus*

Tobacco smoking is causally associated with cancer of the oesophagus, particularly squamous-cell carcinoma. Tobacco smoking is also causally associated with adenocarcinoma of the oesophagus. In most of the epidemiological studies, the risk for all types of oesophageal cancer increased with numbers of cigarettes smoked daily and duration of smoking. However, risk for oesophageal cancer remains elevated many years after cessation of smoking.

Tobacco and alcohol in combination with tobacco smoking greatly increase the risk for squamous-cell carcinoma of the oesophagus. In India, use of smokeless tobacco in combination with smoking also greatly increases the risk.

## *Larynx*

Laryngeal cancer is causally associated with cigarette smoking. The risk increases substantially with duration and number of cigarettes smoked. Use of alcohol in combination with tobacco smoking greatly increases the risk for laryngeal cancer. A few studies also reported that relative risks for cancer of the larynx increased with decreasing age at start of smoking. The relative risk decreased with increasing time since quitting smoking.

## *Pancreas*

Cancer of the pancreas is causally associated with cigarette smoking. The risk increases with duration of smoking and number of cigarettes smoked daily. The risk remains elevated after allowing for potential confounding factors such as alcohol consumption. The relative risk decreased with increasing time since quitting smoking.

## *Stomach*

The data available in 1986 did not permit the earlier IARC Working Group to conclude that the association between tobacco smoking and stomach cancer was causal. Since that time, further studies have shown a consistent association of cancer of the stomach with cigarette smoking in both men and women in many cohort and case–control studies conducted in various parts of the world. Confounding by other factors (e.g. alcohol consumption, *Helicobacter pylori* infection and dietary factors) can be reasonably ruled out. Risk increases with duration of smoking and number of cigarettes smoked, and decreases with increasing duration of successful quitting. In studies that had adequate numbers, the relative risks for men and women were similar.

## *Liver*

In the previous *IARC Monograph* on tobacco smoking, a causal relationship between liver cancer and smoking could not be established, chiefly due to possible confounding from alcohol intake and hepatitis B and hepatitis C virus infections. Many cohort studies and case–control studies have provided additional information on smoking and liver cancer since then. Most of the cohort studies and the largest case–control studies (most notably those that included community controls) showed a moderate association between tobacco smoking and risk of liver cancer. In many studies, the risk for liver cancer increased with the duration of smoking or the number of cigarettes smoked daily. Former smokers who had stopped smoking for more than 10 years showed a decline in liver cancer risk. Confounding from alcohol can be ruled out, at least in the best case–control studies, by means of careful adjustment for drinking habits. An association with smoking has also been demonstrated among non-drinkers. Many studies, most notably from Asia, have shown no attenuation of the association between smoking and liver cancer after adjustment/stratification for markers of hepatitis B/hepatitis C virus infection. There is now sufficient evidence to judge the association between tobacco smoking and liver cancer as causal.

### *Cervix*

An association of invasive cervical squamous-cell carcinoma with smoking has been observed in the large number of studies reviewed. The most recent studies have controlled for infection with human papillomavirus, a known cause of cervical cancer. The effect of smoking was not diminished by the adjustment for human papillomavirus infection, or analysis restricted to cases and controls both positive for human papillomavirus (as ascertained by human papillomavirus DNA or human papillomavirus serological methods). There is now sufficient evidence to establish a causal association of squamous-cell cervical carcinoma with smoking. In the small number of studies available for adeno- and adeno-squamous-cell carcinoma, no consistent association was observed.

### *Leukaemia*

Myeloid leukaemia in adults was observed to be causally related to smoking. Risk increased with amount of tobacco smoked in a substantial number of adequate studies. No clear evidence of any risk was seen for lymphoid leukaemia/lymphoma.

Support for a causal relationship of smoking with myeloid leukaemia is provided by the finding of known leukaemogens in tobacco smoke, one of which (benzene) is present in sufficient amounts to account for up to half of the estimated excess of acute myeloid leukaemia.

### *Colorectal cancer*

There is some evidence from prospective cohort studies and case–control studies that the risk of colorectal cancer is increased among tobacco smokers. However, it is not possible to conclude that the association between tobacco smoking and colorectal cancer is causal. Inadequate adjustment for various potential confounders could account for some of the small increase in risk that appears to be associated with smoking.

### *Female breast*

Most epidemiological studies have found no association with active smoking, after controlling for established risk factors (e.g. age at time of first birth, parity, family history of breast cancer and alcohol). The large multicentre pooled analysis of the association of smoking with breast cancer in non-drinkers confirms the lack of an increased risk of breast cancer associated with smoking.

### *Endometrium*

Cigarette smoking is not associated with an increased risk for endometrial cancer.

An inverse relationship of cigarette smoking with endometrial cancer is observed consistently in most case–control and cohort studies, after adjustment for major confounders. This pattern is stronger in post-menopausal women.

### *Prostate*

No clear evidence of any risk for prostate cancer is seen in case–control studies or in studies of incident cases in cohort studies. The small excess observed in some analytical mortality studies can reasonably be explained by bias in the attribution of the underlying cause of death.

### *Other*

There is inconsistent and/or sparse evidence for association between cigarette smoking and other cancer sites that were considered by the Working Group.

## **Cigars and pipes**

Cigar and/or pipe smoking is strongly related to cancers of the oral cavity, oropharynx, hypopharynx, larynx and oesophagus, the magnitude of risk being similar to that from cigarette smoking. These risks increase with the amount of cigar and/or pipe smoking and with the combination of alcohol and tobacco consumption. Cigar and/or pipe smoking is causally associated with cancer of the lung and there is evidence that cigar and/or pipe smoking are also causally associated with cancers of the pancreas, stomach and urinary bladder.

## **Bidi**

Bidi smoking is the most common form of tobacco smoking in India and is also prevalent in other south-Asian countries and an emerging problem in the USA. Bidi smoke was considered as carcinogenic in the earlier *IARC Monograph* on tobacco smoking, and later studies have provided further evidence of causality. Case–control studies demonstrated a strong association at various sites: oral cavity (including subsites), pharynx, larynx, oesophagus, lung and stomach. Almost all studies show significant trends with duration of bidi smoking and number of bidis smoked.

## **Synergy**

For public health purposes, synergy should be characterized as a positive departure from additivity. The epidemiological literature often inadequately describes combined effects of smoking with co-exposures to other carcinogenic agents and in many studies power is limited for characterizing combined effects. The issue of synergistic effects can be appropriately addressed by epidemiological studies that show stratified analysis and have sufficient power. The studies reviewed found evidence of synergy between smoking and several occupational causes of lung cancer (arsenic, asbestos and radon), and between smoking and alcohol consumption for cancers of the oral cavity, pharynx, larynx and oesophagus and between smoking and human papillomavirus infection for cancer of the cervix. Data were inadequate to evaluate the evidence for synergy between smoking and other known causes of cancer (e.g. hepatitis B and alcohol for liver cancer).

## **5.3 Animal carcinogenicity data**

Cigarette smoke has been tested for carcinogenicity by inhalation studies in rodents, rabbits and dogs. The model systems for animal exposure to tobacco smoke do not fully simulate human exposure to tobacco smoke, and the tumours that develop in animals are not completely representative of human cancer. Nevertheless, the animal data provide valuable insights regarding the carcinogenic potential of tobacco smoke.

The most compelling evidence for a positive carcinogenic effect of tobacco smoke in animals is the

reproducible increase observed in several studies in the occurrence of laryngeal carcinomas in hamsters exposed to whole tobacco smoke or to its particulate phase. In four of five studies in rats, exposure to whole smoke led to modest increases in the occurrence of malignant and/or benign lung tumours. Similarly, in four of eight studies in mice of varying susceptibility to lung tumour development, exposure to whole smoke led to a modest increase in the frequency of lung adenomas. An increased incidence of lung 'tumours' has also been reported in dogs exposed to tobacco smoke, but it is uncertain whether the histopathological features of the lesions are consistent with malignancy. In hamsters exposed to both cigarette smoke and chemical carcinogens (*N*-nitrosodiethylamine and 7,12-dimethylbenz[*a*]anthracene), the tumour response in the respiratory tract was higher than in hamsters exposed to either agent alone. The same is true in rats exposed simultaneously to cigarette smoke and radionuclides (radon progeny and plutonium oxide).

Cigarette smoke condensate both initiates and promotes tumour development in animals. It reproducibly induces both benign and malignant skin tumours in mice following topical application. Similarly, it produces skin tumours in rabbits following topical application. Topical application to the oral mucosa also produced an increased incidence of lung tumours and lymphomas in mice. In rats, cigarette smoke condensate produced lung tumours after intrapulmonary injection. In initiation/promotion assays in mouse skin, a single topical application of cigarette smoke condensate followed by application of croton oil was sufficient to initiate both benign and malignant skin tumours. Smoke condensates of Indian bidi administered to mice by gavage were found to induce tumours in a number of organs. Collectively, these data provide evidence of the carcinogenic effect of mainstream tobacco smoke in experimental animals.

## **5.4 Other relevant data**

Causal associations have been clearly established between active smoking and adverse reproductive outcomes and numerous non-neoplastic diseases, including chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and cardiovascular diseases.

Tobacco smoking is addictive, and nicotine has been established as the major addictive constituent of tobacco products. Measurement of the nicotine metabolite, cotinine, in human blood, urine or saliva provides a specific and sensitive test for exposure to tobacco smoke and can be used to distinguish active and passive smokers from nonsmokers.

Active smoking raises the concentrations of carbon monoxide, benzene and volatile organic compounds in exhaled air. The concentrations of urinary metabolites of some important tobacco smoke carcinogens and related compounds are consistently higher in smokers than in nonsmokers. These include metabolites of benzene, a known carcinogen in humans, as well as metabolites of several carcinogens that cause lung tumours in rodents. Covalent binding to blood proteins by carcinogens present in tobacco smoke has been demonstrated to occur at significantly higher levels in smokers than in nonsmokers. The adducts are derived from various compounds including aromatic amines (e.g. 4-aminobiphenyl), polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (e.g. benzo[*a*]pyrene), tobacco-specific nitrosamines (e.g. 4-(methylnitrosamino)-1-(3-pyridyl)-1-butanone), benzene, acrylamide and acrylonitrile.

Smoking-related DNA adducts have been detected by a variety of analytical methods in the respiratory tract, urinary bladder, cervix and other tissues. In many studies the levels of carcinogen-DNA adducts have been shown to be higher in tissues of smokers than in tissues of nonsmokers. Some but not all studies have demonstrated elevated levels of these adducts in the peripheral blood and in full-term placenta. Smoking-related adducts have also been detected in cardiovascular tissues. Collectively, the available biomarker data provide convincing evidence that carcinogen uptake, activation and binding to cellular macromolecules, including DNA, are higher in smokers than in nonsmokers.

The exposure of experimental animals, primarily rodents, to mainstream tobacco smoke results in a number of biological effects that include (i) increases or decreases in the activities of phase I and phase II enzymes involved in carcinogen metabolism, (ii) increases in the activation of antioxidant enzymes, (iii) increased expression of nitric oxide synthase and of various protein kinases and collagenase, (iv) the formation of tobacco smoke-related DNA adducts in several tissues and (v) reduced clearance of particulate material from the lung.



Smoking is known to have inhibitory or inducing effects on the activities of many enzymes in human tissues. These include xenobiotic metabolizing enzymes, which affect drug and carcinogen metabolism. Numerous studies have reported effects on enzymes in cells treated in culture with tobacco smoke or tobacco smoke condensates.

In humans, smoking produces gene mutations and chromosomal abnormalities. Urine from smokers is mutagenic. Relative to nonsmokers, lung tumours of smokers contain higher frequencies of *TP53* and *KRAS* mutations, and the spectrum of mutations has unique features. Most of the genetic effects seen in smokers are also observed in cultured cells or in experimental animals exposed to tobacco smoke or smoke condensate. Tobacco smoke is genotoxic in humans and in experimental animals.

## **5.5 Evaluation**

There is *sufficient evidence* in humans that tobacco smoking causes cancer of the lung, oral cavity, naso-, oro- and hypopharynx, nasal cavity and paranasal sinuses, larynx, oesophagus, stomach, pancreas, liver, kidney (body and pelvis), ureter, urinary bladder, uterine cervix and bone marrow (myeloid leukaemia).

There is *evidence suggesting lack of carcinogenicity* of tobacco smoking in humans for cancers of the female breast and endometrium.

There is *sufficient evidence* in experimental animals for the carcinogenicity of tobacco smoke and tobacco smoke condensates.

### **Overall evaluation**

Tobacco smoking and tobacco smoke *are carcinogenic to humans (Group 1)*.

For definition of the italicized terms, see [Preamble](#).

## INVOLUNTARY SMOKING (Group 1)

For definition of groups, see [Preamble](#).

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### 5. Summary of Data Reported and Evaluation

#### 5.1 Exposure data

Involuntary (or passive) smoking is exposure to secondhand tobacco smoke, which is a mixture of exhaled mainstream smoke and sidestream smoke released from the smouldering cigarette or other smoking device (cigar, pipe, bidi, etc.) and diluted with ambient air. Involuntary smoking involves inhaling carcinogens, as well as other toxic components, that are present in secondhand tobacco smoke. Secondhand tobacco smoke is sometimes referred to as 'environmental' tobacco smoke. Carcinogens that occur in secondhand tobacco smoke include benzene, 1,3-butadiene, benzo[a]pyrene, 4-(methylnitrosamino)-1-(3-pyridyl)-1-butanone and many others.

Secondhand tobacco smoke consists of a gas phase and a particulate phase; it changes during its dilution and distribution in the environment and upon ageing. The concentrations of respirable particles may be elevated substantially in enclosed spaces containing secondhand tobacco smoke. The composition of tobacco smoke inhaled involuntarily is variable quantitatively and depends on the smoking patterns of the smokers who are producing the smoke as well as the composition and design of the cigarettes or other smoking devices. The secondhand tobacco smoke produced by smoking cigarettes has been most intensively studied.

Secondhand tobacco smoke contains nicotine as well as carcinogens and toxins. Nicotine concentrations in the air in homes of smokers and in workplaces where smoking is permitted typically range on average from 2 to 10 micrograms/m<sup>3</sup>.

#### 5.2 Human carcinogenicity data

##### *Lung cancer*

Involuntary smoking involves exposure to the same numerous carcinogens and toxic substances that are present in tobacco smoke produced by active smoking, which is the principal cause of lung cancer. As noted in the previous *IARC Monograph* on tobacco smoking, this implies that there will be some risk of lung cancer from exposure to secondhand tobacco smoke.

More than 50 studies of involuntary smoking and lung cancer risk in never-smokers, especially spouses of smokers, have been published during the last 25 years. These studies have been carried out in many countries. Most showed an increased risk, especially for persons with higher exposures. To evaluate the information collectively, in particular from those studies with a limited number of cases, meta-analyses have been conducted in which the relative risk estimates from the individual studies are pooled together. These meta-analyses show that there is a statistically significant and consistent association between lung cancer risk in spouses of smokers and exposure to secondhand tobacco smoke from the spouse who smokes. The excess risk is of the order of 20% for women and 30% for men and remains after controlling for some potential sources of bias and confounding. The excess risk increases with increasing exposure. Furthermore, other published meta-analyses of lung cancer in never-smokers exposed to secondhand tobacco smoke at the workplace have found a statistically significant increase in risk of 12–19%. This evidence is sufficient to conclude that involuntary smoking is a cause of lung cancer in never-smokers. The magnitudes of the observed risks are reasonably consistent with predictions based on studies of active smoking in many populations.

## *Breast cancer*

The collective evidence on breast cancer risk associated with involuntary exposure of never-smokers to tobacco smoke is inconsistent. Although four of the 10 case–control studies found statistically significant increases in risks, prospective cohort studies as a whole and, particularly, the two large cohort studies in the USA of nurses and of volunteers in the Cancer Prevention Study II provided no support for a causal relation between involuntary exposure to tobacco smoke and breast cancer in never-smokers. The lack of a positive dose–response also argues against a causal interpretation of these findings. Finally, the lack of an association of breast cancer with active smoking weighs heavily against the possibility that involuntary smoking increases the risk for breast cancer, as no data are available to establish that different mechanisms of carcinogenic action operate at the different dose levels of active and of involuntary smoking.

## *Childhood cancer*

Overall, the findings from studies of childhood cancer and exposure to parental smoking are inconsistent and are likely to be affected by bias. There is a suggestion of a modest association between exposure to maternal tobacco smoke during pregnancy and childhood cancer for all cancer sites combined; however, this is in contrast with the null findings for individual sites. Studies on paternal tobacco smoking suggest a small increased risk for lymphomas, but bias and confounding cannot be ruled out.

## *Other cancer sites*

Data are conflicting and sparse for associations between involuntary smoking and cancers of the nasopharynx, nasal cavity, paranasal sinuses, cervix, gastrointestinal tract and cancers at all sites combined. It is unlikely that any effects are produced in passive smokers that are not produced to a greater extent in active smokers or that types of effects that are not seen in active smokers will be seen in passive smokers.

## **5.3 Animal carcinogenicity data**

Secondhand tobacco smoke for carcinogenicity studies in animals is produced by machines that simulate human active smoking patterns and combine mainstream and sidestream smoke in various proportions. Such mixtures have been tested for carcinogenicity by inhalation studies in rodents. The experimental model systems for exposure to secondhand tobacco smoke do not fully simulate human exposures, and the tumours that develop in animals are not completely representative of human cancer. Nevertheless, the animal data provide valuable insights regarding the carcinogenic potential of secondhand tobacco smoke.

A mixture of 89% sidestream smoke and 11% mainstream smoke has been tested for carcinogenic activity in mouse strains that are highly susceptible to lung tumours (strains A/J and Swiss). In strain A/J mice, this mixture consistently produces a significant, modest increase in lung tumour incidence and lung tumour multiplicity when the mice are exposed for 5 months followed by a 4-month recovery period. These lung tumours are predominantly adenomas. Continuous exposure of strain A/J mice to the above mixture of mainstream and sidestream tobacco smoke for 9 months with no recovery period did not increase the incidence of lung tumours. In Swiss strain mice, the same mixture induced lung tumours by both protocols, i.e. when the animals were exposed for 5 months followed by a 4-month recovery period and when they were exposed continuously for 9 months with no recovery period. In addition, exposure of Swiss mice to the tobacco smoke mixture for a shorter period was sufficient to induce lung tumours.

Condensates of sidestream and of mainstream cigarette smoke have been tested for carcinogenicity. Both kinds of condensates produced a spectrum of benign and malignant skin tumours in mice following topical application, and the sidestream condensate exhibited higher carcinogenic activity. Sidestream smoke condensate was shown to produce a dose-dependent increase in lung tumours in rats following implantation into the lungs.

Increased relative risks for lung and sinonasal cancer have been reported in companion animals

(dogs) exposed to secondhand tobacco smoke in homes.

## 5.4 Other relevant data

Involuntary smoking has been associated with a number of non-neoplastic diseases and adverse effects in never-smokers, including both children and adults. Epidemiological studies have demonstrated that exposure to secondhand tobacco smoke is causally associated with coronary heart disease. From the available meta-analyses, it has been estimated that involuntary smoking increases the risk of an acute coronary heart disease event by 25–35%. Adverse effects of involuntary smoking on the respiratory system have also been detected. In adults, the strongest evidence for a causal relation exists for chronic respiratory symptoms. Some effects on lung function have been detected, but their medical relevance is uncertain.

Data on the hormonal and metabolic effects of involuntary smoking are sparse. However, female involuntary smokers do not appear to weigh less than women who are not exposed to secondhand tobacco smoke, a pattern that contrasts with the findings for active smoking. No consistent association of maternal exposure to secondhand smoke with fertility or fecundity has been identified. There is no clear association of passive smoking with age at menopause.

Maternal cigarette smoking has repeatedly been associated with adverse effects on fetal growth; full-term infants born to women who smoke weigh about 200 g less than those born to nonsmokers. A smaller adverse effect has been attributed to maternal passive smoking.

Cotinine, and its parent compound nicotine, are highly specific for exposure to secondhand smoke. Because of its favourable biological half-life and the sensitivity of techniques for quantifying it, cotinine is currently the most suitable biomarker for assessing recent exposure to secondhand tobacco smoke uptake and metabolism in adults, children and newborns.

Several studies in humans have shown that concentrations of adducts of carcinogens to biological macromolecules, including haemoglobin adducts of aromatic amines and albumin adducts of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, are higher in adult involuntary smokers and in the children of smoking mothers than in individuals not exposed to secondhand tobacco smoke. Protein adduct concentrations in fetal cord blood correlate with those in maternal blood but are lower. Fewer studies have investigated DNA adduct levels in white blood cells of exposed and unexposed nonsmokers, and most studies have not shown clear differences.

In studies of urinary biomarkers, metabolites of the tobacco-specific carcinogen, 4-(methylnitrosamino)-1-(3-pyridyl)-1-butanone, have been found to be consistently elevated in involuntary smokers. Levels of these metabolites are 1–5% as great as those found in smokers. The data demonstrating uptake of 4-(methylnitrosamino)-1-(3-pyridyl)-1-butanone, a lung carcinogen in rodents, by nonsmokers are supportive of a causal link between exposure to secondhand tobacco smoke and development of lung cancer.

The exposure of experimental animals, primarily rodents, to secondhand tobacco smoke has several biological effects that include (i) increases or decreases in the activity of phase I enzymes involved in carcinogen metabolism; (ii) increased expression of nitric oxide synthase, xanthine oxidase and various protein kinases; (iii) the formation of smoke-related DNA adducts in several tissues; and (iv) the presence of urinary biomarkers of exposure to tobacco smoke.

In adult experimental animals, sidestream tobacco smoke has been found to produce changes that are similar to those observed with exposure of humans to secondhand tobacco smoke. These include inflammatory changes in the airways and accelerated formation of arteriosclerotic plaques. Although the changes are often comparatively minor and require exposure to rather elevated concentrations of sidestream smoke, they support the results of human epidemiological studies. During pre- and postnatal exposure, sidestream smoke produces intrauterine growth retardation, changes the pattern of metabolic enzymes in the developing lung, and gives rise to hyperplasia of the pulmonary neuroendocrine cell population. In addition, it adversely affects pulmonary compliance and airway responsiveness to pharmacological challenges.

In humans, involuntary smoking is associated with increased concentrations of mutagens in urine. Some studies have shown a correlation of urinary mutagenicity with concentrations of urinary cotinine. Increased levels of sister chromatid exchanges have not been observed in involuntary smokers; however, there is some indication of elevated levels in exposed children. Lung tumours from nonsmokers exposed to tobacco smoke contain *TP53* and *KRAS* mutations that are similar to those found in tumours from smokers. The genotoxicity of sidestream smoke, 'environmental' tobacco smoke, sidestream smoke condensate or a mixture of sidestream and mainstream smoke condensates has been demonstrated in experimental systems *in vitro* and *in vivo*.

## 5.5 Evaluation

There is *sufficient evidence* that involuntary smoking (exposure to secondhand or 'environmental' tobacco smoke) causes lung cancer in humans.

There is *limited evidence* in experimental animals for the carcinogenicity of mixtures of mainstream and sidestream tobacco smoke.

There is *sufficient evidence* in experimental animals for the carcinogenicity of sidestream smoke condensates.

In addition, the Working Group noted that there are published reports on possible carcinogenic effects of secondhand tobacco smoke in household pet dogs.

### Overall evaluation

Involuntary smoking (exposure to secondhand or 'environmental' tobacco smoke) is *carcinogenic to humans (Group 1)*.

For definition of the italicized terms, see [Preamble](#).