

A study from questionnaire for digital chest radiography and chest CT for medical screening, surveillance and clinical evaluation of dust-exposed workers

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The self-administered questionnaire was developed by Department of Environmental Health, School of Medicine, University of Fukui, and approved by SC-RD, ICOH, in June 2006 in Milan. Questionnaire was distributed to all SC-RD members (list of members attached) and to their colleagues, and collected during from June 2006 to November 2007. Members of SC-RD were from 19 countries including USA, Germany, Japan, China, Finland, Canada, Norway, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Israel, Tanzania, Portugal, Denmark, Thailand, Sweden, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Italy, and Korea. Response were obtained from colleagues and members in 10 countries, i.e. USA, Germany, Japan, Indonesia, Thailand, Denmark, China, Singapore, Brazil, Italy. The result from the questionnaire was summarized in the following. It may represent different status of usage of digital chest images for pneumoconioses in clinical evaluation, legal screening and surveillance, and for compensation purposes in various countries. The digital standard images prepared by ILO will contribute to quality control of digital chest imaging and reading in nations. It is also expected that digital chest images for pneumoconioses make exchange of knowledge and experience easier and much deeper.

Summary

1. Governmental acceptance of digital chest radiography (imaging plate type CR or flat panel type DR) for legal screening of currently and past dust-exposed workers
 - (1) No governmental acceptance (only analogue or Film-Screen system approved): USA, China, Indonesia
 - (2) Governmental acceptance: Germany, Japan (with specified post-processing parameters and /or in reduced size); Italy, Singapore (without specifications)
 - (3) No governmental directive existing: Brazil, Thailand
 - (4) No legal screening: Denmark
2. Governmental acceptance of monitor reading of digital chest radiography for legal screening
 - (1) Governmental acceptance of monitor reading: Germany (prepared at the time of the survey and now approved), Italy, Singapore
 - (2) No governmental acceptance: Japan, USA, China, Indonesia
 - (3) No governmental directive existing: Brazil, Thailand

3. Does your government accept digital chest radiography (either imaging plate type CR or flat panel type DR) for medical screening of current and past dust-exposed workers?
 - a. yes (CR, DR, both)
 - b. no
 - c. don't know
4. Does your government accept monitor reading results of digital chest radiography as legal report on pneumoconiosis screening among current and past dust-exposed workers?
 - a. yes
 - b. no
 - c. don't know
5. Is their recommended parameter for visualization of digital chest radiography in your country?
 - a. yes
 - b. no
 - c. don't know
6. Is either type of digital chest radiography used in clinical evaluation of dust-exposed and other patient with chest diseases?
 - a. yes
 - b. no
 - c. don't know
7. Does your government or compensation foundation cover the cost of annual CT scan of current and past dust-exposed workers?
 - a. yes (if with profusion 1/0 or more, with plaque, any dust exposed)
 - b. no
 - c. don't know
8. Is HRCT or thin-section CT used often for evaluation of dust-induced lung diseases in your country?
 - a. yes
 - b. no
 - c. don't know
9. Does your government accept fibrotic findings detected by CT among radiographic normal current and past dust-exposed workers as pneumoconiosis for compensation?
 - a. yes

- b. no
- c. don't know

10. Please give us your opinion about implementing digital diagnostic measures into pneumoconiosis screening and surveillance.