



Arsenic methylation and bladder cancer risk in case-control studies in Argentina and the United States

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RESUMEN

Objective: We sought to assess whether the metabolism of arsenic impacts a person's susceptibility to bladder cancer. **Methods:** Urinary methylation products were measured in subjects from Argentina (114 cases and 114 controls) and the United States (23 cases and 49 controls). **Results:** In Argentina, the adjusted odds ratio (OR) for subjects with a high proportion of ingested arsenic excreted as monomethylarsonate (%MMA) was 2.17 (95% confidence interval [CI] = 1.02-4.63) in smokers and 0.48 (95% CI = 0.17-1.33) in nonsmokers. In the United States, the adjusted ORs for high %MMA in subjects with arsenic intakes less than and greater than 100 µg/d were 1.20 (95% CI = 0.27-5.38) and 2.70 (95% CI = 0.39-18.6). **Conclusions:** Overall, these results are consistent with data from Taiwan suggesting that some individuals who excrete a higher proportion of ingested arsenic as MMA are more susceptible to arsenic-related cancer.

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