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Analysis of Chromosomal Aberrations in Mint Factory Workers

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KEY WORDS Metal alloys; occupational exposure; mint factory; chromosomal aberrations

ABSTRACT The investigation was carried out in the peripheral lymphocytes of mint factory workers who were exposed to dusts and fumes of metal alloys like aluminium, magnesium, copper and nickel. Samples of peripheral blood were collected from 130 workers out of which 67 were smokers and 63 were nonsmokers. 54 nonsmokers and 42 smokers belonging to the same socioeconomic group but not exposed to either radiation or other toxic chemicals were studied for control data. There was a significant increase in the chromosomal aberrations in the workers when compared to the controls.