

Exposure to pyrethroid insecticides linked to mortality

31 December 2019



Among participants in the highest tertile versus the lowest tertile of urinary 3-phenoxybenzoic acid levels, the hazard ratios for all-cause mortality, cardiovascular disease mortality, and cancer mortality were 1.56 (95 percent confidence interval, 1.08 to 2.26), 3.00 (95 percent confidence interval, 1.02 to 8.80), and 0.91 (95 percent confidence interval, 0.31 to 2.72), respectively, after adjustment.

"Environmental exposure to [pyrethroid insecticides](#) was significantly associated with an [increased risk](#) of all-cause mortality in the U.S. general adult population," the authors write. "The observed association is likely associated with pyrethroid-induced adverse effects on the cardiovascular system."

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(HealthDay)—Environmental exposure to pyrethroid insecticides is associated with an increased risk for all-cause and cardiovascular disease mortality, according to a study published online Dec. 30 in *JAMA Internal Medicine*.

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Wei Bao, M.D., Ph.D., from the University of Iowa in Iowa City, and colleagues examined the correlation of pyrethroid exposure with all-cause and cause-specific mortality using data from 2,116 adults aged 20 years and older who participated in the U.S. National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey conducted from 1999 to 2002.

The researchers found that 246 deaths occurred during a median of 14.4 years, including 41 deaths associated with [cardiovascular disease](#) and 52 associated with cancer. During the follow-up period, participants with higher urinary 3-phenoxybenzoic acid levels were at elevated risk for death, with death occurring in 8.5, 10.2, and 11.9 percent of participants across increasing tertiles of urinary 3-phenoxybenzoic acid levels.

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