

Reviewer's report

Title: Risk of high blood pressure in salt-workers working near salt milling plants

Version: 1 **Date:** 3 June 2005

Reviewer: Finn Gyntelberg

Reviewer's report:

General

This paper is an original contribution to occupational medicine addressing an interesting issue – increase in blood pressure after inhalation of salt .A new contribution with a clear focus.

The methods used are simple, adequate and well described. The data are sound and well controlled.

The manuscript is fairly well written and the results are reported quite clearly. The design of the study is a cross-sectional comparison of two populations one with high and one with low exposure to salt inhalation. The cross-sectional study was followed by an experimental study where the group with high salt exposure had this decreased by personal protection equipment (masks and glasses). The data analyses in both parts of the study is adequate. The authors` conclusion in the discussion that a causal association between inhalation of salt and high blood pressure is well supported by the data presented and justifies the title of the paper.

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

Page 9 line 7: after “respiratory tract” might be added” and further on to the gastrointestinal tract.”

What next?: Accept after discretionary revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests