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# **COMPUESTOS ORGANOCLORADOS Y CÁNCER DE PÁNCREAS EXOCRINO**

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## Background

- Relationship between exposure to organochlorine compounds and risk of several major types of cancer is receiving abundant attention, yet
- No data on internal concentration of organochlorine compounds and risk of exocrine pancreatic cancer.

## MOST UNWANTED

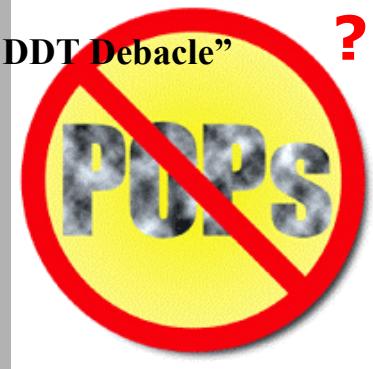
Persistent Organic Pollutants



Aldrin  
Chlordane  
DDT  
Dieldrin  
Dioxins and Furans  
Endrin  
Heptachlor  
HCB  
Mirex  
PCBs  
Toxaphene

<http://ehpnet1.niehs.nih.gov/docs/1999>

“The DDT Debacle”



Env Health Perspect 1999; 107: A24-A25.

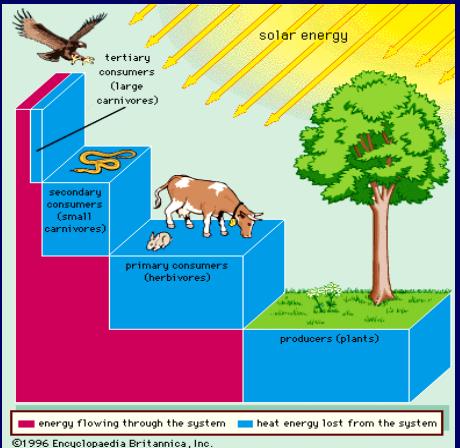
“The DDT Debacle”

“... 30,000 metric tons of DDT were produced by six countries in 1995 for use against malaria...”

“...tackling continued DDT use is the most pressing issue...”

Env Health Perspect 1999; 107: A24-A25.

## Transfer of energy through an ecosystem



- DDT continues to be used. Total global use (worldwide) may be as great in the 1990s as it was in the 1970s.

- Smith D. *Int J Epidemiol* 1999.
- Lindström G et al. *Env Health Perspect* 1995.

- “In spite of the 1972 U.S. ban of DDT, human exposure to DDT potentially is great because of its extensive former use and the persistence of the compound and its metabolites in the environment.”

National Toxicology Program  
8th. Report on Carcinogens (1998)  
[http://ntp-server.niehs.nih.gov/Main\\_pages/NTP\\_8RoC\\_pg.html](http://ntp-server.niehs.nih.gov/Main_pages/NTP_8RoC_pg.html)

## Surveys in Spain:

- 83% of lamb samples contained DDT. HCB and HCH were detected in 100% of lamb and pork. PCBs in 50% of fish (congeners 138, 153 and 180).
  - Herrera A et al. *J Food Protect* 1994, 1999; *J Agricult Food Chem* 1996, 1998; *Food Addit Contam* 1995.

- Lazaro R, et al. Levels of selected polychlorinated biphenyl congeners in total diet samples from Aragón, Spain. *J Food Protect* 1999; 62: 1054-8.
- Ariño A, et al. The effect of commercial processing on incurred residues of DDE in meat products. *Food Addit Contam* 1995; 12: 559-66.

### IARC Evaluation of Carcinogenicity

| Agent | Overall evaluation |                         | Evidence   |            |
|-------|--------------------|-------------------------|------------|------------|
|       | Group              | Carcinogenic to humans? | Animals    | Humans     |
| DDT*  | 2B                 | Possibly                | Sufficient | Inadequate |
| PCBs* | 2A                 | Probably                | Sufficient | Limited    |

\* Reasonably anticipated to be a human carcinogen (8th Report on Carcinogens, 1998)

### Spain:

- Highest DDT levels in human breast milk of Western Europe during '60s to '80s.

– Smith D. *Int J Epidemiol* 1999

- androgen and estrogen receptors have been demonstrated in normal and neoplastic pancreas, and polypeptide and steroid hormones modulate pancreatic carcinogenesis in rodents.
  - Longnecker DS. *Int J Pancreato* 1991.
  - Andrén-Sandberg A. In: Beger HG et al, eds. *The pancreas*. Blackwell, 1998.

Even if role as "tumor promoters" remains more widely accepted...

- Some estrogen metabolites can be complete carcinogens (able to covalently bind to DNA, cause the initiating mutations).
- Hormonal effects may complete the development of tumors.
  - Roy & Liehr. *Mutat Res* 1999.
  - Service RF. *Science* 1998.
  - Yager & Liehr *Annu Rev Pharcol Toxicol* 1996.

### DDT and related compounds and risk of pancreatic cancer

Garabrant DH, Held J et al. *JNCI* 1992; 84: 764-71.

|              | DDT family | DDT  | Ethylan | DDD  |
|--------------|------------|------|---------|------|
| All subjects | 3.3*       | 4.8* | 5.0*    | 4.3* |

\*P ≤ 0.02

- Some epidemiologic studies observed that *occupational* exposure to DDT, PCBs and other OCs increased risk EPC.

- But epi studies generally negative.
  - Weiderpass E et al. *Scand J W Env Health* 1998.
  - Anderson KE et al. In: Schottenfeld D, Fraumeni JF Jr, eds. *Cancer E & P.. 2nd. ed.* OUP, 1996.
  - Longnecker MP et al. *Annu Rev Public Health* '97

### DDT and related compounds and risk of pancreatic cancer

Malats N, Real FX, Porta M,  
+ Garabrant DH, Held J, Homa D. *JNCI* 1993; 85: 328-9.

|                         | DDT family | DDT  | Ethylan | DDD   |
|-------------------------|------------|------|---------|-------|
| All subjects            | 3.3*       | 4.8* | 5.0*    | 4.3*  |
| Cytologically confirmed | 21.0*      | ∞*   | ∞*      | 15.4* |
| Death certificate       | 0.8        | 1.0  | 2.6     | 1.4   |

\*P ≤ 0.02

## **Classical epidemiological approach: Occupation and EPC**

| Agent                        | MRR | 95% CI    |
|------------------------------|-----|-----------|
| Chlorinated hydroc. solvents | 1.3 | 1.0 – 1.8 |
| Insecticides                 | 1.5 | 0.6 – 3.7 |
| Nickel                       | 1.9 | 1.2 – 3.2 |
| PAHs                         | 1.5 | 0.9 – 2.5 |

Ojajärvi A, Partanen T, Ahlbom A, et al. 2000.

- But epidemiologic studies generally been negative...

**Probably because of difficulty of estimating cumulative personal exposure to organochlorines.**

**Serum levels provide accurate and specific estimates of individual internal dose.**

## **PANKRAS II Study**

**Designed in 1990-91, 5 centers, prospective, one of the primary aims was to assess interactions between specific genetic alterations (notably, K-ras mutations) and environmental, occupational and lifestyle factors.**

**Porta M et al. J Epidemiol Community Health 1999; 53: 702-9.**

### **PANKRAS II Study: Subjects included**

| Diagnostic Group                   | N          |
|------------------------------------|------------|
| Exocrine Pancreatic Cancer         | 185        |
| Cancer Extrahepatic Biliary System | 128        |
| Nonmalignant Diseases Pancreas     | 166        |
| Benign Biliary Diseases            | 54         |
| Other Benign Pathologies           | 22         |
| Other Neoplasms                    | 47         |
| EPC Controls (1 hospital)          | 29         |
| <b>Total PANKRAS II</b>            | <b>631</b> |

| <b>Exocrine pancreatic cancer</b>    | <b>N</b>   | <b>(%)</b> |
|--------------------------------------|------------|------------|
| Total number of patients             | <b>185</b> | (100)      |
| With <i>K-ras</i> status established | <b>121</b> | (65)       |
| With serum OCs measured              | <b>51</b>  | (28)       |

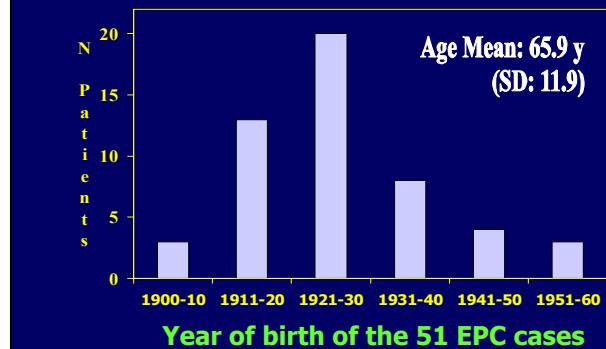
- Prospective collection of tumour cytohistological material during hospital stay.
- Respect for usual clinical practice.
- Independent review by 2 pathologists.
- Prospective collection of biologic samples: serum, plasma, leucocytes, hemarties, urine, hair, eyebrows, nails.

### 51 vs. 134 rest of EPC cases

|                    | <b>51</b>   | <b>134</b> | P-value |
|--------------------|-------------|------------|---------|
| Males (%)          | <b>54.9</b> | 61.2       | 0.541   |
| Age *              | <b>67.0</b> | 67.7       | 0.599   |
| Interview minutes* | <b>25</b>   | 25         | 0.565   |
| Smokers (%)        | <b>56.9</b> | 55.3       | 0.983   |
| Alcohol drink. (%) | <b>70.6</b> | 75.2       | 0.665   |
| Coffee drink. (%)  | <b>78.4</b> | 88.5       | 0.147   |

\*median

“Because of the ubiquity of DDT, everyone born since the mid-1940s has had a lifetime of exposure to DDT and storage of it in fatty tissues.”



- Serum levels of organochlorine compounds were measured by **gas chromatography** with electron-capture detection and negative ion chemical ionization **mass spectrometry**.

– Grimalt J, Sunyer J, Sala M et al.  
*Environ Health Perspect* 1997  
*J Chromatogr A* 1997  
*J Chromatogr A* 1998  
*Occup Environ Med* 1999  
*Arch Environ Health* 1999

### Characteristics of cases and controls

|                                   | CASES<br>(n = 51)  | CONTROLS<br>(n = 26) |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Age (mean±SD)                     | 65.9±11.9          | 73.2±9.8             |
| Males (%)                         | 54.9               | 46.1                 |
| Ever-smokers (%)                  | 56.9               | 34.6                 |
| Reg. coffee drinkers (%)          | 78.4               | 80.8                 |
| Cholesterol (mean±SD)<br>median   | 214.1±110.7<br>188 | 203.6±52.8<br>209    |
| Triglycerides (mean±SD)<br>median | 179.9±101.7<br>153 | 159.8±151.2<br>119   |

- Individual adjustment by total lipids :

$$TL = 2.27 * (\text{total cholesterol [mg/100 mL]} + \text{(triglycerides [mg/100 mL])} + 62.3$$

$$\text{OC adjusted by TL } [\mu\text{g / g lipid}] = (\text{OC [ng/mL]} * 100) / (\text{TL [mg/100 mL]})$$

– Phillips DL et al. *Arch Environ Contam Toxicol* 1989; 18: 495-500.

### Lipid mobilisation → serum Ocs ? OCs by stage at diagnosis

| (N=51)                 | I     | II    | III   | IV    | P-value |
|------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|---------|
| Number of cases        | 9     | 9     | 9     | 24    | -----   |
| Mutated (%)            | 55.6  | 88.9  | 77.8  | 58.3  | 0.613   |
| Total Lipids           | 668.4 | 887.4 | 718.3 | 694.6 | 0.451   |
| ppDDE [crude]          | 17.9  | 26.1  | 15.9  | 17.5  | 0.683   |
| ppDDE [lipid-adjusted] | 2.48  | 3.03  | 2.85  | 2.68  | 0.979   |
| Total PCB [crude]      | 5.99  | 9.65  | 9.55  | 9.49  | 0.278   |
| Total PCB [lipd-adj.]  | 0.90  | 1.11  | 1.38  | 1.56  | 0.119   |

## Potential confounders? (n=51)

|            | MALES  | SMOKERS | COFFEE |
|------------|--------|---------|--------|
| AGE        | ±young | ±young  | ≈      |
| TOT LIPIDS | ↑      | ↑       | ≈      |
| 3 PCBs     | ↑      | ≈       | ↑      |
| DDE        | ≈      | ↓       | ↑      |
| DDT        | ↓      | ↓       | ↑      |

• Low or null confounding by sex, smoking or coffee drinking.

## Detection and Quantification Limits

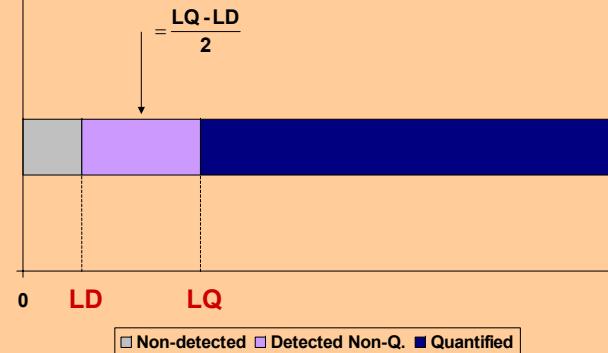
|         | Detection Limit | Quantific. Limit |
|---------|-----------------|------------------|
| PCB 28  | 0.14            | 0.48             |
| PCB 52  | 0.24            | 0.81             |
| PCB 101 | 0.25            | 0.83             |
| PCB 118 | 0.24            | 0.81             |
| PCB 138 | 0.1             | 0.33             |
| PCB 153 | 0.24            | 0.79             |
| PCB 170 | 0.4             | 1.3              |
| PCB 180 | 0.4             | 1.3              |
| PCB 187 | 0.4             | 1.3              |
| PCB 194 | 0.4             | 1.3              |

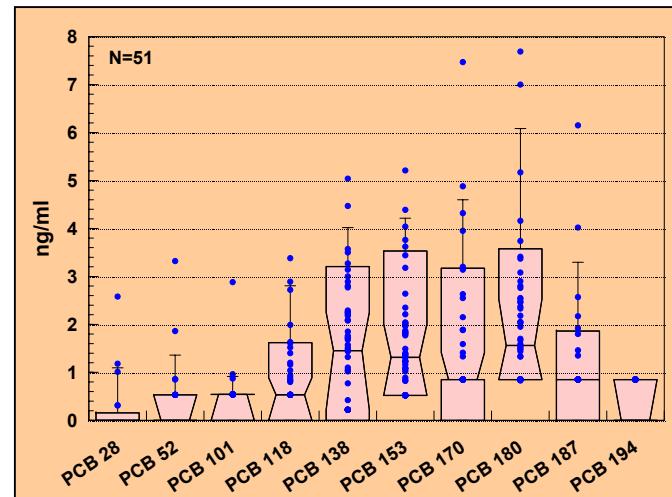
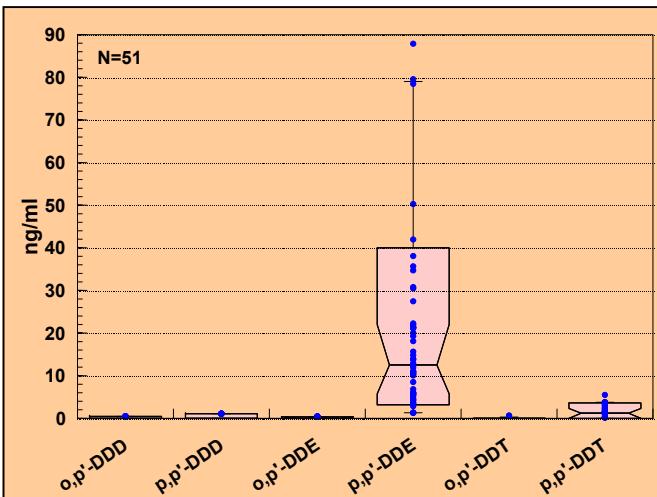
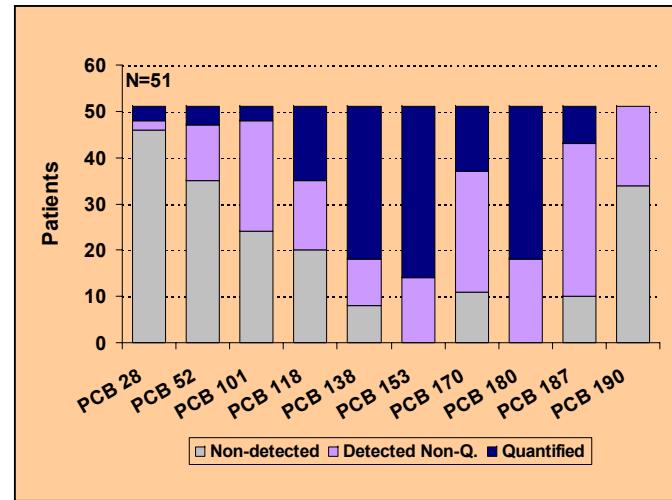
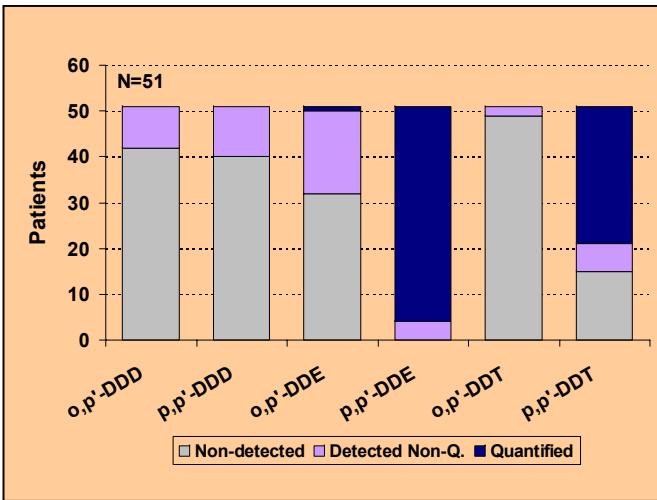
(ng / mL)

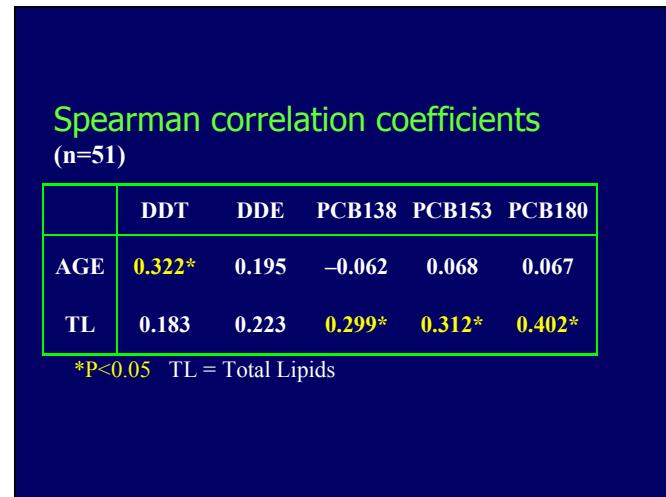
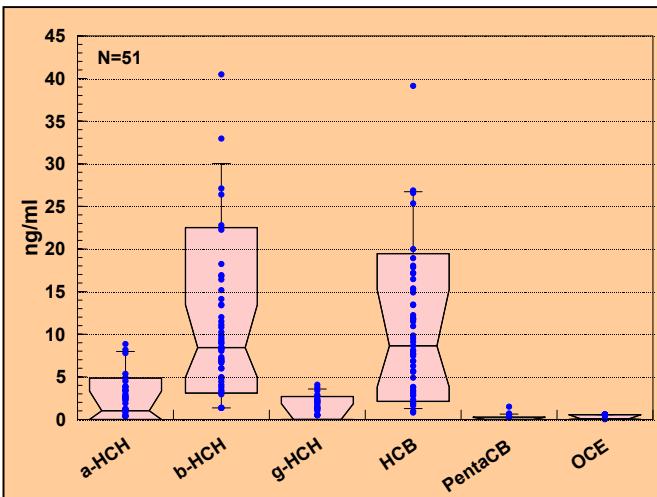
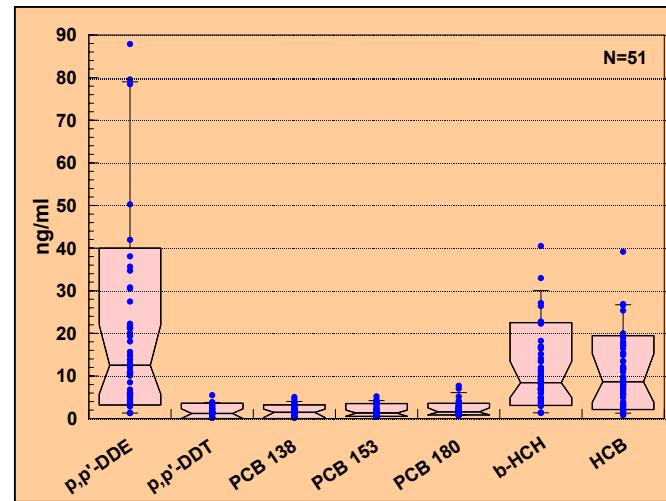
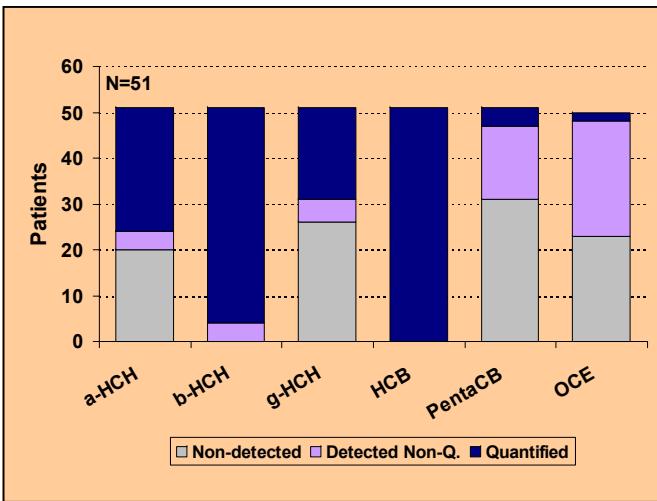
## Detection and Quantification Limits

|          | Detection Limit | Quantification Limit |
|----------|-----------------|----------------------|
| α-HCH    | 0.2             | 0.6                  |
| β-HCH    | 0.6             | 2.1                  |
| γ-HCH    | 0.2             | 0.8                  |
| HCB      | 0.23            | 0.76                 |
| PENTACB  | 0.12            | 0.4                  |
| OCE      | 0.26            | 0.84                 |
| p,p'-DDE | 0.6             | 2                    |
| p,p'-DDT | 0.09            | 0.3                  |
| p,p'-DDD | 0.54            | 1.6                  |
| o,p'-DDT | 0.28            | 0.94                 |
| o,p'-DDE | 0.17            | 0.5                  |
| o,p'-DDD | 0.2             | 0.68 (ng / mL)       |

## LOD and LOQ / inferred values







## Spearman correlation coefficients (n=51)

|     | TOTAL PCBs    | PCB138 | PCB153        | PCB180 |
|-----|---------------|--------|---------------|--------|
| DDT | 0.199         | 0.088  | 0.255         | 0.175  |
| DDE | <b>0.303*</b> | 0.262  | <b>0.434*</b> | 0.261  |

\*P<0.05

## p,p'-DDE

|                 | Cases<br>(n=51) | Controls<br>(n=26) | P-value |
|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------|---------|
| Mean±SD (ng/ml) | 18.80±19.65     | 9.41±7.25          | 0.003*  |
| Median          | 12.49           | 7.59               | 0.030§  |
|                 |                 |                    | 0.009¶  |

\*Student's t-test. §Mann-Whitney's U test. ¶Covariate analysis, adjusting by age, sex, total lipids, smoking, alcohol and coffee drinking.

## p,p'-DDT

|                 | Cases<br>(n=51) | Controls<br>(n=26) | P-value |
|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------|---------|
| Mean±SD (ng/ml) | 1.35±1.40       | 0.53±0.67          | 0.001*  |
| Median          | 1.20            | 0.20               | 0.047§  |
|                 |                 |                    | <0.001¶ |

\*Student's t-test. §Mann-Whitney's U test. ¶Covariate analysis, adjusting by age, sex, total lipids, smoking, alcohol and coffee drinking.

## Cases of EPC vs. controls, by tertiles.

| Tertiles ( $\mu\text{g} / \text{g lipid}$ ) | Crude   |                           | Adjusted *   |                           |
|---|---------|---------------------------|--------------|---------------------------|
|   | OR      | P for trend<br>(OR 95%CI) | OR           | P for trend<br>(OR 95%CI) |
| p,p'-DDT                                    | Nd+DNq  | 1.00                      | 0.040        |                           |
|   | ≤ 0.225 | 1.41                      | (0.46-4.36)  |                           |
|   | > 0.225 | 4.32                      | (1.08-17.31) |                           |
| p,p'-DDE                                    | ≤ 0.950 | 1.00                      | 0.052        |                           |
|   | ≤ 2.350 | 1.00                      | (0.33-3.01)  |                           |
|   | > 2,350 | 3.85                      | (1.03-14.44) |                           |

Tertiles based on distribution among 77 patients  
ORs derived from values individually-adjusted by total lipids

## Cases of EPC vs. controls, by tertiles.

| Tertiles ( $\mu\text{g} / \text{g lipid}$ ) | Crude        |                           | Adjusted * |                           |       |
|---|--------------|---------------------------|------------|---------------------------|-------|
|   | OR           | P for trend<br>(OR 95%CI) | OR         | P for trend<br>(OR 95%CI) |       |
| p,p'-DDT                                    | Nd+DNq       | 1.00                      | 0.040      | 1.00                      | 0.002 |
| $\leq 0.225$                                | 1.41         | (0.46-4.36)               | 2.99       | (0.69-12.89)              |       |
| $> 0.225$                                   | 4.32         | (1.08-17.31)              | 15.77      | (2.68-92.89)              |       |
| p,p'-DDE                                    | $\leq 0.950$ | 1.00                      | 0.052      | 1.00                      | 0.025 |
| $\leq 2.350$                                | 1.00         | (0.33-3.01)               | 1.19       | (0.34-4.09)               |       |
| $> 2.350$                                   | 3.85         | (1.03-14.44)              | 5.56       | (1.26-24.61)              |       |

Tertiles based on distribution among 77 patients

ORs derived from values individually-adjusted by total lipids

\*Adjusted by age, gender, and tobacco, coffee and alcohol use.

## methodologic issues

- 1 Selection of subjects / samples
- 2 Matching in the case-case design
- 3 Potential confounders
- 4 LOD and LOQ / inferred values
- 5 "Total PCBs"
- 6 Lipid mobilisation → serum Ocs ?
- 7 Conditional vs. unconditional logistic regression

## PCB 180

|                 | Cases<br>(n=51) | Controls<br>(n=26) | P-value |
|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------|---------|
| Mean±SD (ng/ml) | 2.01±1.49       | 1.30±0.58          | 0.004*  |
| Median          | 1.56            | 0.85               | 0.040§  |
|                 |                 |                    | 0.009¶  |

\*Student's t-test. §Mann-Whitney's U test. ¶Covariate analysis, adjusting by age, sex, total lipids, smoking, alcohol and coffee drinking.

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