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Two children with central nervous defects born to mothers exposed to styrene at work

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Two children with central nervous defects born to mothers exposed to styrene at work

by PETER C. HOLMBERG, M.D.¹

The contents of this paper have already been published in a previous number of this journal.

HOLMBERG, P. Central nervous defects in two children of mothers exposed to chemicals in the reinforced plastics industry: Chance or a causal relation? *Scand. j. work environ. & health* 3 (1977) 212—214.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Question to Dr. HOLMBERG

Dr. DUCK:

Have you reviewed other cases of babies born with central nervous defects, which have been similarly registered in Finland, to determine whether there is any apparent correlation with maternal (or paternal) employment in reinforced plastics production? In other words, have you been able to demonstrate that a high proportion of babies with such central nervous defects have been born to mothers who have worked with styrene, polyester resins and related materials?

Dr. HOLMBERG:

No such definite data have been demonstrated. However we hope to know more about this matter when the results from the study dealing with pregnancy among women exposed in reinforced plastics industry are available.

Dr. COMPERTZ:

I believe we should make a clear distinction between anencephaly and congenital hydrocephalus. These two conditions tend to segregate independently in genetic studies, although there is some overlap due to secondary hydrocephalus occurring in children with neural tube dysraphia. I agree with Dr. Holmberg that individual cases need reporting, but we should be careful before linking similar but pathologically different conditions together in studying incidence rates.

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