




Article

Effects of Environmental Air Pollution on Pulmonary Function Level of Residents in Korean Industrial Complexes

Eunju Hong ^{1,†}, Seokwon Lee ^{2,†}, Geun-Bae Kim ³, Tae-Jong Kim ⁴, Hyung-Wook Kim ¹, Kyoungho Lee ^{2,*}  and Bu-Soon Son ^{1,*}

¹ Department of Environmental Health Science, College of Natural Science, Soonchunhyang University, 22 Soonchunhyang-ro, Asan City, Chungnam 31538, Korea; (E.H.); (H.-W.K.)

² Samsung Health Research Institute, Samsung Electronics Co. Ltd., 1 Samsungjeonja-ro, Hwaseong City, Gyeonggi-do 18448, Korea;

³ Environmental Health Research Division, National Institute of Environment Research, 42 Hwangyeong-ro, Incheon City 22689, Korea;

⁴ World Vertex Corp., ACE bldg., 401m 179, Baumoe-ro, Seocho-gu, Seoul 06744, Korea;

* Correspondence:

† These authors equally contributed to this study.

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Abstract: This study aims to identify environmental air pollution adversely affecting pulmonary function among a community-based general population living in Korean industrial complexes. A total of 1963 residents participated in a pulmonary function test (PFT). The sample population consisted of an exposed group ($n = 1487$) living within a radius of 5 km of industrial complexes and a control group ($n = 476$) living over a radius of 10 km from the industrial complexes in Gwangyang and Yeosu cities. PFT results were calculated for each resident of the study population. On-site questionnaire surveys with face-to-face interviews were also conducted to collect more detailed information on personal lifestyles, medical history, exposure to air pollution, and respiratory disease and related symptoms. A total of 486 measured samples were collected by eight automated air-monitoring stations installed in four counties of Gwangyang and four counties of Yeosu in South Korea from January 2006 to February 2007. Mean levels of SO_2 (0.012 ppm), CO (0.648 ppm), NO_2 (0.02 ppm), O_3 (0.034 ppm), and PM_{10} ($43.07 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$), collected within a radius of 5 km, were significantly higher than those collected over a radius of 10 km from Gwangyang and Yeosu industrial complexes. Prevalence odds ratio (OR) of abnormal pulmonary function in the exposed group of residents (<5 km) was elevated at 1.24 (95% CI 0.71–1.96), but not statistically significant ($p > 0.05$). In multiple linear regression analysis, forced expiratory volume in one second (FEV_1) and forced vital capacity (FVC) levels significantly declined as SO_2 , CO, and O_3 levels increased when adjusting for age, sex, body mass index (BMI), alcohol, smoking, secondhand smoke, and respiratory disease and related symptoms ($n = 1963$) ($p < 0.05$). These results suggest that exposure to air pollution affects pulmonary function levels of residents living in Korean industrial complexes.

Keywords: air pollution; health effect; industrial complex; ozone; pulmonary function test; sulfur dioxide

1. Introduction

Since the 1970s, a number of large-sized industrial complexes of petrochemical and steel industries were constructed and contributed to the fast economic growth in South Korea [1]. The industrial



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Seokwon Lee ^{2,†}

본인이름만 남김

† These authors equally contributed to this study. 기여율 등에 대한 설명내용은 남김

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