

COAL GASIFICATION (Group 1)

A. Evidence for carcinogenicity to humans (*sufficient*)

Case reports of tumours of the skin (including the scrotum), bladder and respiratory tract in association with employment in industries involving the destructive distillation of coal suggested a link between work in that industry and human cancer. Descriptive epidemiological studies based on death certificates corroborated these early suggestions¹.

A series of detailed analytical epidemiological studies of the British gas industry add further weight to the hypothesis that work in such coal gasification plants carries a risk for tumours of the lung, bladder and scrotum. There appeared to be a relationship between elevated relative risk of tumours and work in retort houses, particularly when the job had entailed exposure to fumes emanating from the retorts¹.

B. Other relevant data

No relevant data were available to the Working Group.

References

¹*IARC Monographs*, 34, 65-99, 1984