

**Table 2.7 Case-control studies of exposure to formaldehyde and cancer at other sites**

Reference, study location, years of study	Characteristics of cases	Characteristics of controls	Exposure assessment	Organ site (ICD code)	Exposure categories	Number of exposed cases	Odds ratio (95% CI)	Adjustment for potential confounders	Comments	
Gérin et al. (1989), Canada, 1979–85	Men aged 35–70 yrs resident in Montréal	Pool of population selected from electoral list, and cancer controls; depending of the cancer site under study, the number of controls varied from 1733 to 2741.	Semi-structural probing interview, assessment of exposures by chemists and industrial hygienists	Oesophagus	Short*	26	No association for any of these sites (most odds ratios very close to 1.0)	Selection of data-based confounders (variables according to each specific cancer), plus age, ethnic group, socio-economic status, cigarette smoking and dirtiness of job	*Short and long refer to the duration, and low, medium and high to the intensity of exposure	
					Long-low					
					Long-medium					
					Long-high					
					Stomach					67
					Colorectum					167
					Liver					13
					Pancreas					23
					Prostate					127
					Bladder					126
Kidney	44									
Skin melanoma	22									
Merletti et al. (1991), Italy, 1982–84	86 male incident cases	Random sample of 385 men, stratified by age, from the files of residents	Full occupational history linked to a job-exposure matrix	Oral cavity or oropharynx	Any exposure Probable or definite	6	1.6 (0.9–2.8) 1.8 (0.6–5.5)	Age, education, area of birth, tobacco smoking and alcohol drinking		
Goldoft et al. (1993), USA, 1979–89	Nine cases [sex distribution not reported]	Random-digit dialing, frequency-matched on sex and age at diagnosis (controls from Vaughan et al., 1986a, b)	Interview	Melanoma of the nasal cavity or nasopharynx	Living in a residence with foam insulation	1	O = 0/E = 0.28		*Wood-work, furniture manufacture, pulp and paper mill, textile, foundry and melter	
					Occupational exposure	0	O = 0/E = 0.27			
					Employed in industries with potential exposure*	0	O = 0/E = 0.8			
Siemiatycki et al. (1994), Canada, 1979–86	484 men aged 35–70 years resident in Montréal	533 population and 1879 cancer controls	See Gérin et al. (1989)	Bladder	Non-substantial	10	1.2 (0.9–1.6)	Age, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, tobacco smoking, coffee consumption, status of respondent and other occupational exposures	Results based on pooled controls	
					Substantial	11	0.9 (0.5–1.7)			