

研究内容(城戸)

1. ベトナムにおける枯葉剤/ダイオキシン類の生体影響に関する疫学研究

2002年以降、毎年枯葉剤が撒布されたベトナムクワンチ省の調査地区と対照地区（ハチン省）の住民を対象に健康調査を実施している。生体試料（血清・母乳・皮下脂肪）中のダイオキシン類濃度は現在でも汚染地区の方が有意に高い。両地区間で視力に有意な差がみられたが、現在のダイオキシン類濃度との相関は認められなかった。それ以外の健康指標での差異は明らかではないが、引き続き調査を継続中である。

2. カドミウム（Cd）汚染地域住民の慢性生体影響に関する長期追跡研究

石川県梯川流域のCd汚染地域は既に土壌改善が実施されて約20年が経過しているが、Cdの生物学的半減期は17-30年と長い。一度体内に取り込まれたCdが排泄される課程で腎尿細管障害を引き起こす可能性がある。そこで尿中Cdと低分子量蛋白の β_2 ミクログロブリンを指標に追跡調査を実施してきた結果、一旦障害を引き起こした場合にはその変化は非可逆的であることが明らかになっている。引き続き中等度曝露者の予後について継続調査中である。

3. 労働者の適正な労働衛生管理システムの構築に関する研究

労働者の働く環境下には様々な有害物質が存在する。また労働時間や雇用形態等様々な労働態様に伴う過労死をはじめとした健康影響も近年認められる。一方では、メタボリックシンドロームに代表される生活習慣病や受動喫煙対策も健康管理上重要な課題である。このような課題に対峙しながら、より良い労働衛生管理体制の構築を目指している。

1. An epidemiological study of adverse health effects on humans sprayed with herbicide/dioxin in Vietnam.

Since 2002, annual health examinations have been conducted on inhabitants of the herbicide/dioxin sprayed area in Quang Tri Province and on those of a control area in Ha Tinh Province in Vietnam. Dioxin levels in human specimens such as serum, breast milk and adipose tissues were significantly higher in the sprayed area than in the control area. Visual acuity was significantly lower in the sprayed area than in the control area. However, there was no correlation between visual acuity and dioxin levels. There was no other significant difference in routine health indicators between inhabitants of the two areas. Continuous studies have been on-going.

2. Long-term observation of chronic adverse effects on human health in cadmium (Cd)-polluted areas.

Over 20 years have passed since Cd-polluted soil was removed from Kakehashi River basin in Ishikawa Prefecture. However, the biological half-life of Cd is very long, about 17-30 years. Once Cd is absorbed into the human body, it can induce renal tubular dysfunction during the process of urinary excretion. Therefore, follow-up studies have been performed using urinary Cd and β_2 -microglobulin as indicators. As a result, it has been clarified that this renal damage is irreversible. We still continue to survey the prognosis of people exposed to moderate amounts of Cd.

3. Study of the establishment of an appropriate occupational health care system for workers

There are various kinds of harmful substances in the working environment as well as adverse health effects such as “Karoushi” due to too long working time or unstable working conditions that have recently attracted attention. In contrast, countermeasures for lifestyle-related diseases such as “Metabolic syndrome” and passive smoking are important health issues. To overcome these problems, we will pursue the establishment of a better health care system.



Children in Vietnam

