

Letter to the Editor

**Re: Occupational Exposure to Pesticides and
Pancreatic Cancer. 2001. Ji B.-T., Silverman D.T.,
Stewart P.A., Blair A., Swanson G.M.,
Baris D., Greenberg R.D., Hayes R., Brown L.M.,
Lillemoe K.D., Schoenberg J.B., Pottern L.M.,
Schwartz A.G., Hoover R. Am. J. Ind. Med. 39:92-99**

To the Editor

In our recent paper describing associations of pancreatic cancer to pesticides, Table I presented JEM scores

for selected occupations. We omitted several scores from the table, which indicated less variability across the study than was assessed. We have added all possible scores in Table I to reflect this variability. Also, several scores in the

TABLE I. JEM Scores for Selected Occupations

SOC	Job description	JEM scores (1-3)		
		Insecticides	Fungicides (agricultural and non-agricultural)	Herbicides
5211	Supervisors, food and beverage preparation		1	
5216	Food counter, fountain and related occupations		1	
5342	Maids and housemen	1	1	
5244	Janitors and cleaners	1	1	1
5512	General farmers	3	2	3
5513	Crop, vegetable, fruit and tree nut farmers (depending on crop)	3	2	3
5612	General farm workers	3	2	3
5613	Field crop and vegetable farm workers	3	2-3	3
5621	Supervisors; related agricultural workers	2	1-2	2
5622	Ground keepers and gardeners	2	1	2
6910	Water and sewage treatment plant operators		2	2
7658	Laundering and dry cleaning machine operators and tenders	2		
7659	Textile machine operators and tenders	2	2	
7664	Mixing and blending machine operators and tenders	3	1-3	3
7714	Welders and cutters	2	1-2	2

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table may need further explanation. The supervisors, food and beverage preparation and food counter, fountain and related occupations had possible exposure to nonagricultural fungicides (i.e. disinfectants). Water and sewage treatment plant operators may handle herbicides to kill algae. Historically, textile mills and some dry cleaning operations applied insecticides to fabric. The subjects with jobs of mixing/blending machine operator/tender, or welder and cutter who were assigned pesticide exposures had worked in the chemical industry where pesticides may have been manufactured.

The omissions were only in the reported data and not in the original data, and thus did not affect the epidemiologic results or conclusions.

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