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Universidad y Salud ARTÍCULO REVISIÓN

**Carcinógenos ambientales asociados a cáncer infantil**

Environmental carcinogens associated with childhood cancer

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**Resumen**

**Introducción:** La Sociedad Americana de Cáncer indica que al año se diagnostican 163.300 casos de cáncer infantil en el mundo. En Colombia fueron reportadas 300 muertes por esta causa en menores de edad durante el año 2015. Actualmente, las principales asociaciones etiológicas de cáncer infantil son la radiación ionizante y exposición a pesticidas, convirtiéndose en una prioridad emergente en la agenda mundial de salud infantil. **Objetivo:** Identificar factores carcinogénicos asociados al incremento de riesgo en la aparición de cáncer infantil. **Materiales y métodos:** Se realizó una revisión de artículos científicos en inglés y español en la base de datos *PubMed, ScienceDirect, SciELO,* y publicaciones estadísticas de la Organización Mundial de la Salud, Asociación Americana de Cáncer y el Instituto Nacional de Cancerología de Colombia. **Resultados:** Se describieron diferentes factores carcinogénicos como radiación ionizante, agentes biológicos, patrones dietéticos, exposición a pesticidas, tabaco y asbesto, destacando su asociación en el desarrollo de cáncer infantil. **Conclusión:** El reconocimiento de los agentes carcinogénicos frecuentemente asociados con cáncer infantil, permite identificar el impacto de estos sobre la salud, y generar medidas preventivas más eficaces que puedan reducir la carga global de la enfermedad.

**Palabras clave**: Niño; neoplasias; carcinógenos; factores de riesgo; exposición a riesgos ambientales. (Fuente: DeCS, Bireme).

**Abstract**

**Introduction:** The American Cancer Society indicates that each year 163,300 cases of childhood cancer are diagnosed worldwide. In Colombia, 300 deaths were reported from this cause in minors during 2015. Currently, the main etiological associations of childhood cancer are ionizing radiation and exposure to pesticides, making it an emerging priority in the global agenda for children's health. **Objective:** To identify carcinogenic factors associated with the increased risk in the onset of childhood cancer. **Materials and methods:** A review of scientific articles in English and Spanish was carried out in *PubMed, ScienceDirect, SciELO,* and statistical publications of the World Health Organization, American Cancer Association and the National Cancer Institute of Colombia. **Results:** Different carcinogenic factors were described as ionizing radiation, biological agents, dietary patterns, exposure to pesticides, tobacco and asbestos, highlighting their association in the development of childhood cancer. **Conclusion:** The recognition of the carcinogenic agents frequently associated with childhood cancer, allows the identification of their impact on health, and generates more effective preventive measures that can reduce the worldwide burden of the disease.

**Key words:** Child; neoplasms; carcinogens; risk factors; environmental exposure. (Source: DeCS, Bireme).

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