NATIONAL NETWORK FOR MONITORING PREVENTION OF OCCUPATIONAL DISEASE (RNV3P)

2022 Annual Report

The National Network for Monitoring and Prevention of Occupational Diseases (RNV3P) is a grouping of occupational health and environmental health professionals that includes all 28 occupational and environmental disease consultation centres (CCPPEs) in France. It works to detect and prevent risk situations, and identify work-related diseases, independently of any concerns about compensation or redress by the social security schemes. The occupational or environmental health problems diagnosed by the CCPPEs' expert physicians are recorded in a shared database and coded according to several national and international nomenclatures, namely the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-10), French Classification of Activities (NAF 2008) and International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO 2008). Hazards to which workers have been exposed are coded according to a nomenclature called the "Occupational Exposure Thesaurus" (TEP).

The RNV3P is run by the French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety (ANSES) in partnership with five other national occupational health bodies (CNAM, CCMSA, INRS, *Santé Publique France* and SFST)[1]. It has a steering committee and its activities are supported by a number of working groups (WGs) on Emerging issues, Data exploitation methodology & strategy, Occupational psychopathologies and the TEP. Some of these are expert groups whose members have been selected according to ANSES's collective expert appraisal standards.

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[1] CNAM: National Health Insurance Fund; INRS: National Research and Safety Institute; CCMSA: French Central Fund for the Agricultural Mutual Insurance Scheme; SFST: French Society for Occupational Health.

In 2022, the CCPPEs prepared to respond to calls for applications from the Regional Health Agencies (ARSs) in their respective regions, for the nomination of regional occupational and environmental disease centres (CRPPEs). There are currently no CCPPEs in Bourgogne-Franche-Comté, Corsica, or the French overseas regions.

KEY FIGURES

Over 40 extractions from the RNV3P database carried out for the CCPPEs, the RNV3P's partners (including ANSES) or ANSES working groups involved in the RNV3P's work.

5 clinical cases and 28 occupational risk situations identified from the literature monitoring and discussed within the working group on emerging issues in occupational health, resulting in 12 analyses of the RNV3P database and five information messages sent to the CCPPEs**.**

3 clinical cases posted on the OccWatch[2] platform.

[2] OccWatch stands for _Occ_upational Diseases Sentinel Clinical _Watch_ System. It is a restricted-access platform for the expert appraisal of clinical case reports for which an emerging occupational risk is suspected.

HIGHLIGHTS

Transformation of two RNV3P working groups into ANSES expert groups

To comply with the charter for expert appraisal in force at ANSES, two RNV3P working groups have been transformed into ANSES expert groups. A call for applications was issued for each one, and applications were examined on the basis of the candidates' skills, professional experience and public declarations of interests.

The working group **(WG) on Emerging issues in occupational health**, made up of 12 members appointed for a three-year term, met for the first time in June 2022. Its brief is to detect emerging occupational diseases at an early stage, and report them to enable prevention and management measures to be implemented.

The **RNV3P's WG on Data exploitation methodology & strategy**, with ten members, was set up in November 2022 for a three-year term. It is tasked with supporting the analysis and interpretation of RNV3P data in response to formal requests or ANSES internal requests, and developing data collection and coding, mainly by organising quality and coding schools, and creating tutorials.

General Assembly of the RNV3P

The RNV3P's general assembly was held over two days in December 2022. At the meeting, three of the six CCPPE representatives on the steering committee were re-elected. To encourage high-quality data entry, new data-entry rules were defined and accepted by the entire CCPPE community. This meeting was also an opportunity for the French Directorate General for Health to hold discussions with representatives of all the CCPPEs on the creation of a regional occupational and environmental disease centre (CRPPE) in each region.

New charter for the exploitation and promotion of RNV3P data

The RNV3P charter on data exploitation sets out the principles to be upheld by all members and partners when they wish to extract and analyse network data, whether for scientific publication or for work that will not be published. Its updated version, which was presented to the General Assembly, specifies the possible situations, which differ according to the requester, the number of cases of interest (distinguishing between studies on just a few cases – series of cases – and those on a larger number), and the purpose of the project (whether or not it will result in a scientific publication). The extraction request questionnaires to be sent to the RNV3P team at ANSES have been modified accordingly.

Research and development agreement for ODERMAP

This research and development agreement on a feasibility study of a national observatory for monitoring occupational dermatoses was signed in 2018. It came to an end in 2022, after having enrolled 457 patients in two CCPPEs over a 24-month period. It identified the sectors and jobs where there was a risk of dermatitis, particularly in healthcare, hairdressing, construction and food, which varied according to gender. These sectors are known to pose a risk of occupational dermatoses, whose persistence reflects inadequate prevention.

The allergens involved were identified in detail after entering in the RNV3P's information system the results of 60,783 patch tests performed on the skin. This then provided statistics on patient positivity rates for the different test batteries and for the allergens in the standard European battery. These initial results are unprecedented in France and will be invaluable for assessing situations posing a risk of occupational dermatoses and allergies, particularly according to the different sectors, and for conducting vigilance activities.

Entering all the variables in the forms developed for this feasibility study proved to be time-consuming and unsustainable with a view to extending them to all the CCPPEs interested in this observatory. A quality review was carried out that helped guide the choice of variables to be maintained, simplified or removed in the future. Overall, this study showed that centralising test results provides real added value in the follow-up and monitoring of skin sensitisation. Entering positive tests by allergen in the test batteries should be extended to all the interested CCPPEs. It would be worthwhile running a test phase with a few centres before developing it on a larger scale.

OUTLOOK AND PROJECTS INITIATED

Developing distance-learning tools

Members of the CCPPEs expressed a need for training tools on coding and data entry in the RNV3P's information system, especially in view of the turnover of occupational medicine interns and consultation staff. As it was not possible to meet this need by organising face-to-face or even remote meetings, ANSES's RNV3P team undertook a programme to develop tutorials, comprising segments lasting a few minutes each on a specific theme (coding of a patient file, coding of causality, etc.), which will be available in the information system. Priority has been given to tutorials that show the data being entered directly via the network interface, with a reminder of the coding rules and the formalism of data entry. The tutorials are intended for new staff and will not be specific to an occupation, thus being equally suitable for training doctors, interns, secretaries and nurses. In total, more than 15 tutorials are planned.

In 2022, the first tutorials explaining how to enter patient record data were completed. Nine doctors from six CCPPEs volunteered to help develop the content.

Communicating on the activities of the working group on Emerging issues and encouraging feedback on suspected emerging clinical cases

The members of the WG on Emerging issues in occupational health stated their intention to communicate more on its activities, particularly on early detection methods for suspected emerging occupational situations, and on the information messages or reports sent to the CCPPEs with a view to improving aetiological diagnostic practices and/or contributing to occupational disease prevention. It was therefore decided to organise occasional interactive webinars, starting in 2023, initially aimed at CCPPE staff. These will be recorded and made available in the RNV3P's information system. A second phase is planned involving a wider audience of occupational health players, mainly doctors from occupational health and prevention services.

Better understanding of people suffering from multiple chemical sensitivity (MCS)

Multiple chemical sensitivity (MCS), also known as chemical intolerance (CI), was defined by the WHO in 1996 as an acquired disorder characterized by recurrent symptoms, referable to multiple organ systems, occurring in response to demonstrable exposure to many chemically unrelated compounds at doses far below those established in the general population to cause harmful effects. This is a diagnosis made by elimination, as there are no specific clinical or paraclinical signs for this disorder. The Directorate General for Health asked ANSES to analyse the data in the RNV3P database on people diagnosed with MCS in any of the network's 28 CCPPEs, whether the cases involved work-related or environment-related disorders. Two rapporteurs were appointed to help interpret the records, and the results are being monitored by the RNV3P's working group on Data exploitation methodology & strategy. They will be published in 2023.

Occupational psychopathologies among workers in the agricultural sector

A "psychosocial disorders" working group within the High Commission on Occupational Diseases in Agriculture (Cosmap) has been tasked with reviewing data and knowledge on pathologies linked to the psychosocial risk factors of agricultural workers, in order to improve their medical care. In this context, ANSES was asked to study these pathologies, both psychological and physical, in particular musculoskeletal disorders, diagnosed among workers in the agricultural sector by one of the RNV3P's CCPPEs. The work is being monitored by the RNV3P's working group on Data exploitation methodology & strategy and its results will be made public in 2023.

OTHER WORK

News on work relating to the Occupational Exposure Thesaurus

In March 2018, work began on upgrading the Occupational Exposure Thesaurus (TEP), with the aim of ensuring that all occupational health stakeholders have a common language for describing occupational exposures, available in an open-source tool. This major project is being led by ANSES and involves representatives of the CNAM, INRS, MSA, SFST, Santé Publique France and Présanse, as well as doctors from inter-company health services and the CCPPEs. Two updated categories appear in the 2022 version of the TEP: a new "Organisational, interpersonal and ethical factors" class and a "Quality of the work space" class, which replaces the "Workplace" class. The "Physical agents" class has been updated for inclusion in the 2023 version.

The updated "Organisational, interpersonal and ethical factors" class now includes risk factors identified by the expert panel on statistical monitoring of psychosocial risks at work, compiled in the "Gollac report" (2011). New or missing exposures (e.g. hazards associated with teleworking) have also been added. Descriptions that were too long or that involved several exposures have been revised, with the addition of certain descriptions to improve their accuracy. Overall, the tree structure of the initial 2014 version has not been significantly altered in this updated class, apart from a reworking of the subclasses "Working relations and violence" and "Psychosocial risk multiplication factors" (which was previously entitled "Other multiplication factors").

KEY DATES

14-17 JUNE

Congress of the French Society for Occupational Health

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22 JUNE

Establishment of the ANSES working group on Emerging issues in occupational health

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Update on the development of a method for determining causality for the RNV3P

A 24-month research and development agreement (CRD) was signed with the university hospitals of Bordeaux and Rennes in September 2020, in order to create a method for assessing the causality of exposure to a substance or environment in the occurrence of a disease or a group of syndromes, whether this exposure occurs in an occupational or non-occupational setting. Experts currently estimate this causality empirically. Acute, sub-acute and chronic conditions will be considered.

The first step in the CRD was to conduct a review of the scientific literature in order to identify validated and published methods for determining causality. This identified 39 "general" methods and seven "specific" methods (for liver damage and musculoskeletal disorders) in the following areas: pharmacovigilance, occupational and environmental health, toxicovigilance, nutrivigilance and cosmetovigilance. The next step will be to build an algorithm for determining a causality score. This will be tested (and adapted if necessary) for different types of disease: solid cancers, fertility disorders, pregnancy diseases and birth defects, asthma and allergies, musculoskeletal disorders, haematological disorders, psychopathologies, systemic diseases, and respiratory diseases. Tests on the method's validity and reproducibility will be carried out across the entire network in 2023.

21 NOVEMBER — *Inaugural meeting of the ANSES working group on Data exploitation methodology & strategy*

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7 DECEMBER — *General Assembly of the RNV3P*

MAIN PUBLICATIONS

C. Robin, N. Vongmany, J.-D. Dewitte et al. *Work related asthma in women: Compared to data in men. Retrospect data study carried out by the RNV3P: National Network Watch and Prevention of work related pathologies (RNV3P).* Archives des Maladies Professionnelles et de l'Environnement, Volume 83 (2022) 181-192.

D. Lucas, C. Robin, N. Vongmany, J.-D. Dewitte, B. Loddé, R. Pougnet, L. Larabi and RNV3P members. *Main Causal Agents of Occupational Asthma in France, Reported to the National Network for Occupational Disease Vigilance and Prevention (RNV3P) 2001–2018.* Annals of Work Exposures and Health, Volume 67, Issue 3, April 2023, Pages 297–302.

V. Bonneterre. *Pathologies pulmonaires professionnelles* [Occupational lung diseases]. CONCOURS PLURIPRO - VOLUME 144 - No. 13 - MARCH 2022 pages 37-40.

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