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P104. SILICOSIS WITH FOUR CASES

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Silicosis is parenchymal lung disease that is caused by inhalation of silica dusts in the crystal structure and thus resulting in fibrosis. Exposure to silica particles can cause silicosis in miners, quarry workers, sandblasters, glass-makers, foundry and ceramic workers, and construction workers involved in highways, tunnels and cement. In the present study, 4 male ceramic workers whose ages are 26, 37, 43 and 45 years will be presented. In their routine examination, lung graphies demonstrated pathological evidences. They work in the same workplaces in 10, 15, 17, 23 years, respectively. Three of them have smoking habit. On physical examination, respiratory sounds were normal. In the lung graphies of cases, bilateral millimetric nodules were seen, and large opacity according to ILO calcification system was detected in one case. High Resolution Computed Tomography (HRCT) of the lungs demonstrated diffuse micronodular interstitial involvement that is concentrated in the upper lobes of both lungs. In respiratory function test, small airway obstruction was detected in one case. Respiratory function test and diffusion capacities were normal in other 3 cases. Silicosis was diagnosed in these patients and they have been followed clinically and radiologically.

Silicosis is a preventable occupational lung disease. After diagnosis, cessation of exposure is important in the progression of the disease. Ceramics workers who work under dust control measures are also significant in the prevention of silicosis disease.