ASSOCIATION BETWEEN AMBIENT POLLUTANTS EXPOSURE AND EMERGENCY ATTENDANCE FOR UPPER GASTROINTESTINAL BLEEDING: A POPULATION-BASED TIME-SERIES STUDY

Wai Keung Leung

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A Hong Kong time-series study of 22,109 upper gastrointestinal bleeding emergency attendances found that high ambient PM2.5 and NO2 exposure are associated with increased emergency attendance risk, with greater risk among elderly, females, and during cold seasons.

KEY POINTS

- Exposure to high concentrations (90th percentile) of PM2.5 significantly increased UGIB emergency attendance risk from lag days 5 to 7 (RR 1.08-1.09, 95% CI 1.01-1.16), while high NO2 exposure increased risk from lag days 3 to 5 (RR 1.12-1.13, 95% CI 1.01-1.27).
- High O3 concentration exposure did not significantly increase UGIB emergency attendance risk.
- Stratified analysis showed that elderly, female patients, and cold season periods (October to March) were associated with higher risk of UGIB emergency attendance for both PM2.5 and NO2 exposure.
- The study analyzed six years of data (2016-2021) from Hong Kong's 7.6 million population using distributed lag non-linear models, controlling for meteorological factors and multi-collinearity among pollutants.

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