

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL STUDY
OF
VINYL CHLORIDE WORKERS

~~Final Report~~

Draft
April 15, 1974

Prepared for *PVC INDUSTRY SPONSOR*
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I. SUMMARY

A historical prospective study of 8384 workers with occupational exposure to vinyl chloride revealed a generally favorable mortality experience compared with the U. S. male population. Overall mortality was about 76 percent of what would be expected in a comparable U. S. male population.

However, there was a measurable excess of digestive cancers, especially liver, respiratory cancers, and other unspecified cancers in which brain cancer predominated. An excess of buccal cancer was found, but was apparently unrelated to any measure of exposure obtained.

The study was begun before the relationship of angiosarcoma to vinyl chloride exposure was known to TCA, Inc. Among the liver cancers found through the study, however, two were certified as due to angiosarcoma.

Although the report is a final one for the purposes of the present contract, it is incomplete in two major areas.

1. The follow-up rate of 85 percent is relatively low, and the workers not found represent a relatively older group whose exposures terminated some time ago, providing a latent period within which malignancies or other chronic conditions might have developed.
2. A group of about 1500 workers whose exposures occurred up to 35 years ago was discovered as the study ended, and are not included. This group, by virtue of its age and the possible severity of the earlier exposure, could represent a source of mortality which might change the picture with respect to chronic conditions and affect the relative mortality.