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NATIONAL NETWORK FOR MONITORING AND PREVENTION OF OCCUPATIONAL DISEASES (RNV3P)

2023 Annual Report

Investigate, evaluate, protect

The National Network for Monitoring and Prevention of Occupational Diseases (RNV3P) is a grouping of occupational 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 an operational unit. In 2023, its work drew on two groups of experts selected according to ANSES's collective expert appraisal standards: the Working Groups on "Emerging issues in occupational health" and "Data exploitation methodology & strategy".

[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 2023, the regional health agencies nominated several regional occupational and environmental disease centres (CRPPEs). A CRPPE has now been (or will be) assigned in each region of France, with the exception of the overseas regions, Bourgogne-Franche-Comté and Corsica.

KEY FIGURES

22 extractions from the RNV3P national database, including:

- **8** extractions for the CCPPEs
- **3** extractions for bodies outside the network (CARSATs, SSTIs, SPSTs)
- **11** extractions in response to ANSES formal/internal requests

10 clinical cases discussed by the WG on "Emerging issues"

10 occupational risk situations identified from literature monitoring, leading to extractions from the RNV3P database and information messages to the CCPPEs

HIGHLIGHTS

Webinars: a new format for the RNV3P's School of Quality and Methodology

On 16 and 17 November 2023, the RNV3P's School of Quality and Methodology was held as a webinar instead of the traditional one-and-a-half-day session in Maisons-Alfort. This enabled two separate sessions to be set up according to the coding expertise of CCPPE staff – two half-days for "junior" coders and one half-day for "seniors" – ensuring that the content was better suited to the needs of the participants. More than 80 people took part in one or other of the sessions, sometimes both, compared with around 50 in previous face-to-face meetings. Participants included doctors, nurses and medical-administrative assistants. One morning of the junior session was devoted to practical exercises in coding clinical cases using an interactive application. Participants gave the event a very positive assessment, praising the webinar format and expressing a desire to extend the School's duration for future editions: a day and a half for juniors and a day for seniors.

Creation of a dedicated VIMEO channel for the RNV3P

To meet the vocational training needs of RNV3P users, a restricted-access VIMEO channel has been set up for broadcasting tutorials.

These video tutorials are very short (10 minutes maximum) to ensure that everyone can find the time to watch them. They are based on specific examples and combine conceptual and practical aspects, explaining the different stages of data entry step-by-step.

KEY DATES

12-13 October 2023

Modernet network congress in Milan: presentation on the emerging risk of sensitisation to psyllium in the food industry

November 2023

Establishment of the dedicated **VIMEO channel** for the RNV3P and publication of its first

Publication of the report on people suffering from multiple chemical sensitivity

Following a formal request from the Directorate General for Health, ANSES, supported by the expertise of the Working Group on "Data exploitation methodology & strategy", analysed data on consultations for multiple chemical sensitivity (MCS) in the occupational

and environmental disease consultation centres (CCPPEs) from 2001 to 2021; during this period, 1867 cases of MCS related to work or the environment were diagnosed in the CCPPEs. The patients, predominantly women, had mainly consulted in three regions: Île-de-France, Pays-de-la-Loire and Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes. Two-thirds of the illnesses were work-related and one-third were environmental. The exposures triggering the symptoms differed according to whether the disease was occupational or environmental, but mainly concerned paints, dyes, solvents, thinners, detergents and disinfectants in the occupational environment, versus perfumes and odours, as well as paints, dyes, solvents and thinners in the non-occupational environment.

An opinion on the compatibility of the MCS patient's state of health with their current or planned job was issued for half of the MCS cases: of these, 46% of the patients were deemed fit for work with reservations, 34% without reservations, 14% permanently unfit and 6% temporarily unfit. This demonstrates the impact of this syndrome on the working lives of sufferers.

The report was presented to associations representing people suffering from this condition.

16-17 November 2023

RNV3P's School of Quality and Methodology

21 December 2023

Signature of an ANSES-ANS agreement on use of the TEP

Work-related psychopathologies in MSA-affiliated patients seen in CCPPEs

Following a formal request from the High Commission on Occupational Diseases in Agriculture (Cosmap), ANSES analysed work-related diseases – particularly psychopathologies – in patients affiliated to the agricultural mutual insurance scheme (MSA), recorded by the RNV3P between 2009 and 2020. These psychopathologies were less common in patients affiliated to the MSA than in other patients (a quarter versus a third) and were very rare in self-employed workers (1%) compared with employees. MSA-affiliated patients with work-related psychopathologies were more often advised by the CCPPE doctor to declare an occupational disease than patients who were not affiliated to the MSA (17% versus 11%). These findings should be interpreted with caution, given the unrepresentative nature of the CCPPE patients. The lower proportion of psychopathologies among MSA-affiliated patients may reflect lower prevalence, under-diagnosis or less inclination to visit a CCPPE.

Agreement to make the TEP available on the ANS's multi-terminology server

As part of the third National Occupational Health Plan (PST 3), which encourages the use of harmonised thesauruses, the Directorate General for Labour (DGT) made a formal request to ANSES in 2018 to upgrade the Occupational Exposure Thesaurus (TEP). In March 2021, a second formal request from the DGT to continue this upgrading work included making this thesaurus more widely available via an IT tool.

In 2023, a partnership agreement was signed between ANSES and the French eHealth Agency (ANS) to make the TEP available on the ANS's multi-terminology server. This enables the secure and widespread publication of reference terminologies for the healthcare and medical-social sector, which are then integrated in the software used by professionals in these sectors.

Publication of the TEP on the multi-terminology server was scheduled for January 2024.

Outlook and projects initiated

Updating of coding recommendations and of the information system for data entry

In 2023, work began on updating the coding summary sheet. The main changes, resulting from debates within the WG on "Data exploitation methodology & strategy", concern updated definitions of the reasons for consultation, a revision of the terms used (*e.g. OHP was changed to HP: health problem*), addition of a new classification for the HP, the introduction of variables linked to the sources of exposure, a revision to how the occupational accident/disease declaration is completed, etc. These changes were presented at the School of Quality and Methodology in November. The new version of the coding summary sheet was scheduled for distribution in early 2024 and will be further developed to take account of other recommendations arising from current discussions (e.g. *debate on the environmental component of the network, etc.*).

Development of a trend analysis method

Trend analysis is used to explore changes over time in the frequency of work-related diseases seen by the CCPPEs, along with the types of exposure responsible, and to identify significant variations.

This approach can detect periodic variations in the notification of work-related diseases to the network, which could reflect an increase in risk requiring the introduction of preventive measures or, conversely, indicate that the measures taken have had an impact.

Third formal request from the Directorate General for Labour to upgrade the TEP

A feedback meeting on the second formal request was held with the Directorate General for Labour in December 2023. The third formal request concerns the upgrading of the last classes to be completed by the end of 2025, namely:

- the "Biological agents" class;
- the "Industrial products or processes" class;
- the "Work equipment, tools, machinery and vehicles" class.

These new, overhauled classes are also expected to be made available on the ANS's multi-terminology server, while the methodology for monitoring needs and developing the TEP to adapt to the ANS's own methodology will be updated.

Development of a method for assessing the causality of exposure to a disease

In September 2020, a 24-month research and development agreement was signed with the university hospitals of Bordeaux and Rennes in order to develop an algorithm for determining the causality of exposure to a substance or homogeneous environment in the occurrence of a disease or a group of syndromes, whether the exposure occurs in an occupational or non-occupational setting. The work was carried out in three phases: The first phase consisted of a literature review of current causality methods applied to occupational and environmental health and also to other vigilance schemes. This identified 39 "general" methods and seven "specific" methods in different areas (*pharmacovigilance, occupational and environmental health, toxicovigilance, nutrivigilance and cosmetovigilance*). The second phase involved developing a method for determining causality based on criteria relating to exposure and disease. The third and final phase involved testing the causality method on specific cases, to validate the choice and weighting of criteria.

Other work

News on work relating to the TEP

The 2024 version of the TEP was delivered to the publishers in December 2023. This version includes two updated classes: "Chemical agents" and "Rocks and minerals" (which replaced the "Rocks and other mineral substances" class).

These two classes have not undergone any significant changes, only simplifications, harmonisation of wording and correction of errors.

For the "Chemical agents" class, the CAS number has been added to the metadata. An update is planned for delivery of the 2025 version of the TEP, which should include the addition of exposures found in the occupational disease tables.

ANCAPRO project: how RNV3P data are helping to shed light on the occupational and environmental origins of anti-neutrophil cytoplasmic antibody (ANCA) vasculitis

The ANCAPRO project, selected in 2021 as part of an ANSES call for projects designed to capitalise on RNV3P data, came to an end in October 2023. The increased incidence of ANCA vasculitis from the second half of life onwards suggests that factors relating to age and the environment may be involved in the development of this type of vasculitis. However, these environmental factors, which may result from occupational exposure, are still unclear. The CCPPE in Brest therefore carried out the first national multicentre descriptive study of ANCA vasculitis sufferers seen by the CCPPEs. Its final report includes a clinical description of the patients consulting the CCPPEs, the occupational and environmental exposures linked to the disease, and the severity of the disease according to the identified exposures. The results showed an unusual predominance in men for this disease. In addition, kidney damage was significantly more common in patients exposed to silica and/or solvents than in patients for whom other types of exposure or none at all were reported.

Main publications

Lucas D, Robin C, Vongmany N, Dewitte JD, Loddé B, Pougnet R, Larabi L and RNV3P members. Main Causal Agents of Occupational Asthma in France, Reported to the RNV3P 2001-2018. Ann Work Expo Health. 2023 Dec 15;67(3):297-302. doi: [10.1093] ETNA2 (wxac079)

Deydier N, Gourier G, Crépy MN, Roguedas AM, Dewitte JD, Misery L, Loddé B. Occupational Contact Dermatitis Caused by Artichokes. Dermatitis. 2023 May-Jun;34(3):224-232. doi: 10.1097/DER.0000000000000825.

ANSES. Rapport révisé relatif au syndrome de sensibilité chimique multiple (SCM) - Description des cas enregistrés dans le Réseau national de vigilance et de prévention des pathologies professionnelles (RNV3P) entre 2001 et 2021 [Revised report on multiple chemical sensitivity (MCS) syndrome – Description of cases recorded by the National Network for Monitoring and Prevention of Occupational Diseases (RNV3P) between 2001 and 2021]. https://anses.fr/fr/system/files/RNV3P2021AST0185Ra.pdf

ANSES. Rapport AST relatif à la description par type de pathologies en lien avec les facteurs de risques psychosociaux des situations professionnelles à risque en agriculture - Analyse des pathologies en relation avec le travail liées à des risques psycho-sociaux chez les travailleurs agricoles ayant consulté dans le Réseau national de vigilance et de prévention des pathologies professionnelles (RNV3P) entre 2009 et 2020 [STS report on the description, by type of disease linked to psychosocial risk factors, of high-risk occupational situations in agriculture – Analysis of work-related diseases linked to psychosocial risks among agricultural workers who consulted the National Network for Monitoring and Prevention of Occupational Diseases (RNV3P) between 2009 and 2020]. https://anses.fr/fr/system/files/RNV3P2022AST0032Ra.pdf

Vigil'ANSES no. 19, The bulletin for all of ANSES's vigilance schemes – March 2023. Exposure to psyllium: an emerging risk for food industry workers.

Références en Santé au Travail, No. 174 - June 2023. L'exposition au psyllium : un risque nouveau pour les travailleurs de l'industrie agroalimentaire [Exposure to psyllium: an emerging risk for food industry workers].

Travail et sécurité, No. 849 - June 2023. Allergie au psyllium : la vigilance avant l'alerte [Psyllium allergy: vigilance before the alert].

Tripodi D, Barthas M. Presentation at the *Journées de la SMTO* - October 2023. Maladies respiratoires émergentes au sein du RNV3P [Emerging respiratory diseases within the RNV3P].

Guessal A. Thesis in medical practice – October 2023. Sarcome et activité professionnelle: données du Réseau National de Vigilance et de Prévention des Pathologies Professionnelles (RNV3P) [Sarcomas and occupational activity: Data from the National Network for Monitoring and Prevention of Occupational Diseases (RNV3P)].

Prévot C. Thesis in medical practice – October 2023. Occupational and Environmental Origins of ANCA Vasculitis: Contribution of Data From the RNV3P.

Gourier G, Lodde B. ANCAPRO project study report – September 2023. Occupational and Environmental Origins of ANCA Vasculitis: Contribution of Data From the RNV3P. CCPPE Brest.

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