Special Issue

Air Pollution and Cardiovascular Risk

Message from the Guest Editor

In many major cities, urban air is polluted due to particulate matter and toxic gases. Long-term and short-term exposures to particulate matter are linked to cardiovascular disease, including myocardial infarction, probably via pro-inflammatory and prothrombotic pathways. Toxic chemicals linked to cardiovascular disease are carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen oxide (NO2), ozone (O3), and sulphurdioxide (SO2). Recent research has convincingly shown the association between air pollution and cardiovascular disease. The impact of pollution in city centers is clear, as it is almost doubling the risk of coronary artery calcification in middle-aged asymptomatic citizens. Furthermore, it has been found that variations in pollution levels may affect the mortality rates. Elderly with pre-existing cardiovascular disease represent the most vulnerable group at risk from air pollution exposure. Suggestions to limit the time spent outdoors to reduce the infiltration of air pollution have been made. On the population level, it has been shown that life will expectancy improve if the air quality is controlled.

Guest Editor

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Addressing the environmental and public health challenges requires engagement and collaboration among clinicians and public health researchers. Scientific discoveries and advances in this research field play a critical role in providing a rational basis for informed decision-making toward control and prevention of human diseases, especially the illnesses that are induced from environmental exposure to health hazards.

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