

## COMMITTEE ON THE MEDICAL EFFECTS OF AIR POLLUTANTS

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON OZONE AND RESPIRATORY AND  
CARDIOVASCULAR MORTALITY – PAPER BY WONG *ET AL* (2002)

## 1. The reference

Wong, C.M., Atkinson, R.W., Anderson, H.R., Hedley, A.J., Ma, S., Chau, P.Y. and Lam, T.H. (2002) A tale of two cities: effects of air pollution on hospital admissions in Hong Kong and London compared. *Environ Health Perspect* **110**, 67-77

in the paper COMEAP/2002/9a should be replaced by

Wong, T.W., Tam, W.S., Yu, T.S. and Wong, A.H.S. (2002) Associations between daily mortalities from respiratory and cardiovascular diseases and air pollution in Hong Kong, China. *Occup Environ Med* **59**: 30-35.

2. Additional information from this reference should be considered alongside COMEAP/2002/9a as follows (although it should be borne in mind that the data in this paper overlaps somewhat with Wong (2001)):

Respiratory mortality

*Paragraph 15 (seasonal effects)* Wong *et al* (2002) found no interaction of the effect of ozone on respiratory mortality with the cool season.

*Paragraph 17 (control for other pollutants)* Wong *et al* (2002) found that the effect of ozone was robust to control for other pollutants.

*Paragraph 18 (dose-response function)* Wong *et al* (2002) found an upward trend in the relative risks across all deciles of the ozone concentrations, with the lowest decile as reference. The authors fitted a linear trend (see figure 2a)<sup>1</sup> but, if examined closely, a threshold at the 3<sup>rd</sup> decile above the reference could also be justified. (NB The figure does not specify whether the relative risks are for respiratory mortality but the authors have confirmed that they are.)

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<sup>1</sup> Figure 2a was extracted from Figure 1 in Wong *et al* (2002). *Occup Environ Med* 59; 30-35.

### All circulatory mortality

*Paragraph 35 (seasonal effects).* Wong *et al* (2002) found no interaction of the effect of ozone on all circulatory mortality with the cool season.

*Paragraph 37 (control for other pollutants)* Wong *et al* (2002) found that the effect of ozone was robust to control for other pollutants.

3. This additional information does not affect the overall conclusions of COMEAP/2002/9a in any major way. The relevant coefficients were already included in the summary estimates described in the paper.

**Secretariat**

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