

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)¹ but, if examined closely, a threshold at the 3rd 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.)

¹ 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

June 2002