Insight: Answers

The Insight questions and answers are designed to test your knowledge of the fields covered by papers in this issue and are intended as a contribution to your personal, continuing, occupational medicine education. The questions answered here are on the preceding pages.

1. Data from SWORD 1997 reveal:
   a. True. It accounts for 26% of reports.
   b. False. The incidence was high with exposures to halothane, acetic acid, sterilising agents and sodium hydroxide being documented.
   c. True. Reports of asthma caused by latex rank fourth.
   d. False. They account for over 50%.
   e. True-Byssinosis has not been reported since 1994.

2. Epilepsy:
   a. True. It affects at least 350,000 people.¹
   b. False. At least 30% of patients need more than one drug.²
   c. True.³
   d. False. There is a 40% increased associated risk of seizure in the first year of withdrawal of medication compared with those who continue therapy.³
   e. True.⁴
   f. True.⁵

3. Benzene:⁶
   a. False. It is a by-product of the petrochemical and petroleum refining industries.
   b. True.
   c. True. Benzoquinone and muconaldehyde are the metabolites which are myelotoxic. These compounds have the ability to react with DNA to form adducts.
   d. False. Benzene itself is not mutagenic although several of its products are mutagenic in bacterial species.
   e. True. However, it is readily absorbed through cracked dry or fissured skin.

4. In manic depressive illness:
   a. True. See paper by Armond in this issue.
   b. True.
   c. True.
   d. True. It is stated that in patients with well-organized prophylaxis the mortality rate has been reduced by 80% and is no higher than in the general population.
   e. False. The interval decreases by one-tenth.

5. The self-reported work-related illness (SWI) in a 1995 household survey:⁷
   a. False. With the respondent’s consent the doctor or specialist who had treated the illness was also contacted.
   b. True.
   c. False. These data were not collected in this survey.
   d. True. The confidence interval was 1897 000–2136 000.
   e. True. These conditions had the highest prevalence.

6. Portland cement:
   a. True.⁸
   b. True.⁹
   c. False. It is strongly alkaline with a pH of approximately 12.5.⁹
   d. True. Caused by hexavalent chromium.
7. **With regard to shiftworkers:**
   a. True. It increases the amount of adaptation required.
   b. True. This is one of the causes of dropout from shiftwork.
   c. False.
   d. True.
   e. False. Studies indicate a figure of 5–20%.

8. **In Hepatitis B virus infection:**
   a. True. See the paper by Birrell and Cooke in this issue.
   b. True. It can be found in acute Hepatitis B or in the reactivation of Hepatitis B in a chronic carrier.
   c. True. And as a viral replication drops of HBV DNA becomes undetectable and HBeAg is replaced by e antibody.
   d. False. As stated in the paper by Birrell and Cooke, there is evidence of the inactive virus becoming spontaneously active with the emergence of HBeAg and HBV DNA.
   e. False. The paper by Birrell and Cooke quotes a figure of 50%.

REFERENCES