

Mercury from Mining Activity and Cardiovascular Disease

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COLUMN ARTICLE

In 2017, the World Health Organization ruled on Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining (MAPE) and its association with health and environmental problems, as a background to the Mercury Minimization Agreement in October 2013; There are millions of people dedicated to this work in developing countries that consequently affect their health [1]. Diseases such as: Neurotoxicity and the decrease in the IQ of children of pregnant mothers, exposed to said metal, in addition to cardiovascular effects particularly with the toxic form of mercury: Methylmercury [2]. This is a public health problem because the World Health Organization requires that in 2012 17.5 million people died due to cardiovascular diseases, which represents 30% of deaths registered in the world and predicts that by 2030 that 23.6 million people will die of some cardiovascular disease, it also makes reference that it will continue to be the main cause of death [3]. Geen, *et al.* (2012) aimed to “calculate that part of the Peruvian population residing in the immediate vicinity of active or closed mining could be exposed to soils contaminated with lead”; The result was that in “35 of the 74 locations tested in Cerro de Pasco, lead levels exceeded 1200 mg/kg. The reference standard for residential soils” and concludes as: “it is probable that lead soil contamination is widespread in Peruvian mining towns” and is not uniform [4]. These data are relevant and of global interest because metals such as

lead and arsenic according to Chowdhury, *et al.* (2018). In their meta-analysis that included 37 studies, they concluded that exposure to arsenic, lead, cadmium and copper is related to an increased risk of cardiovascular disease and coronary heart disease [5]. Therefore, a timely and quality intervention is necessary in the exposed populations and their environment in which they are developed and Mining Tailings Management Guidelines, which are a set of toxic wastes from mining processes, mixture of ground rocks, water and minerals with little commercial value, in addition heavy metals such as mercury, copper and lead; such as those shown by the country of Canada in an updated form [6].

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